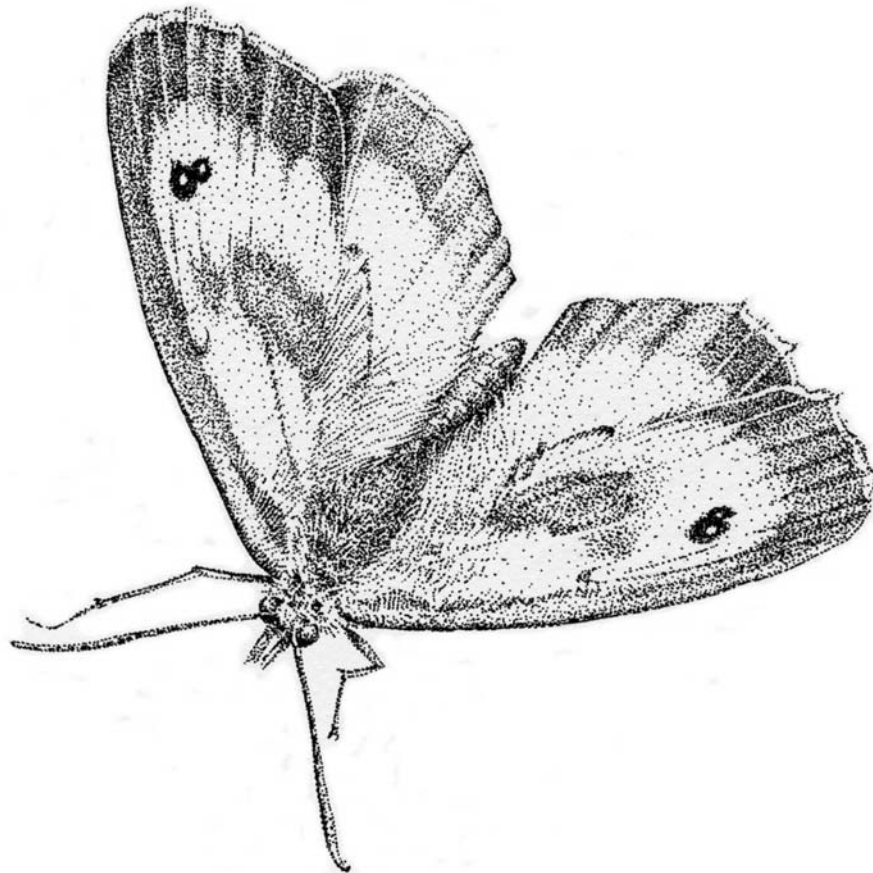


NORTH EAST ENGLAND BRANCH BUTTERFLY CONSERVATION



BUTTERFLY SUMMARY 2008



Compiled by Dave O'Brien, Roger Norman & Steve le Fleming



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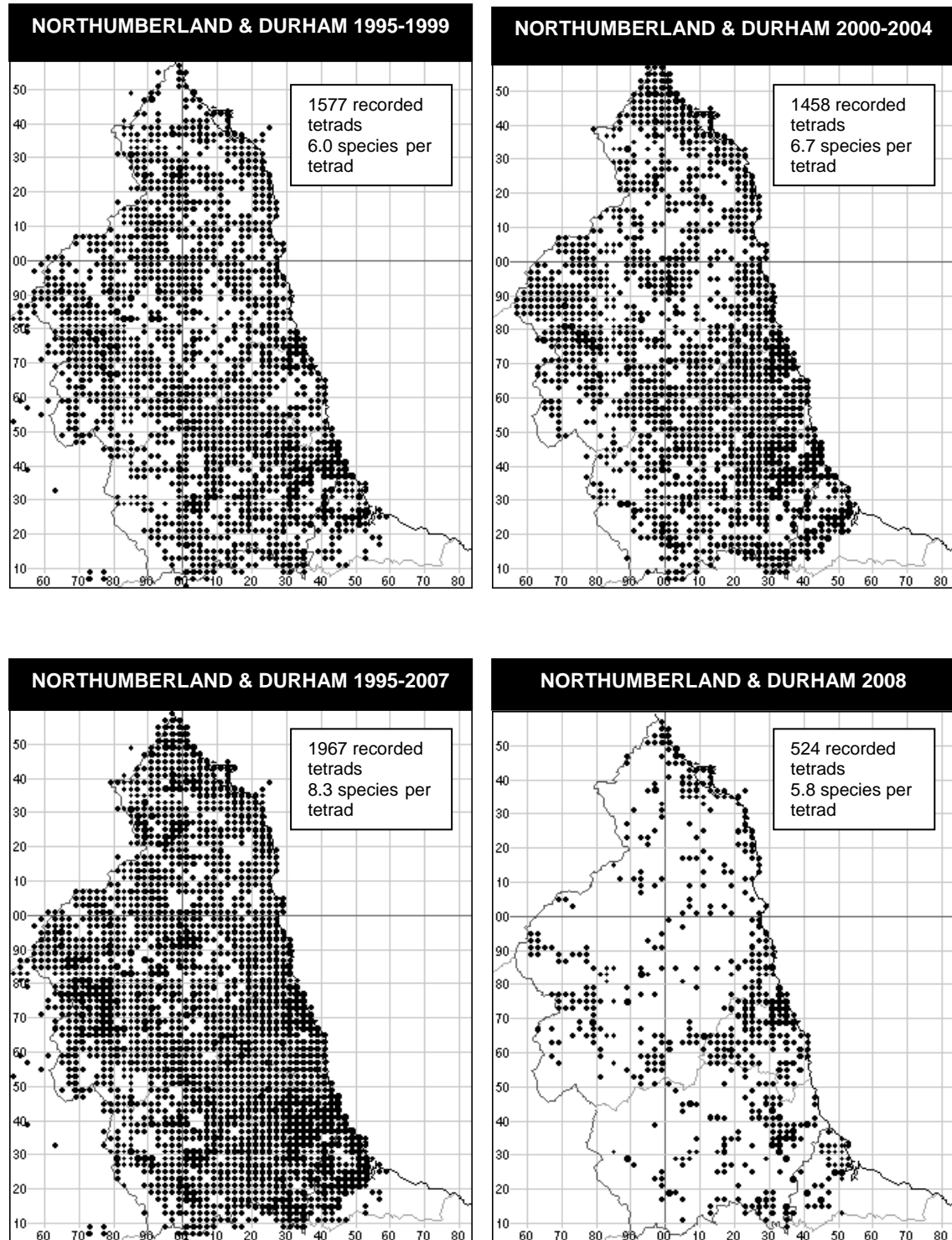
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(Front cover: Gatekeeper, Terry Coult)

The latest annual report, newsletter and Branch details are available on the website:
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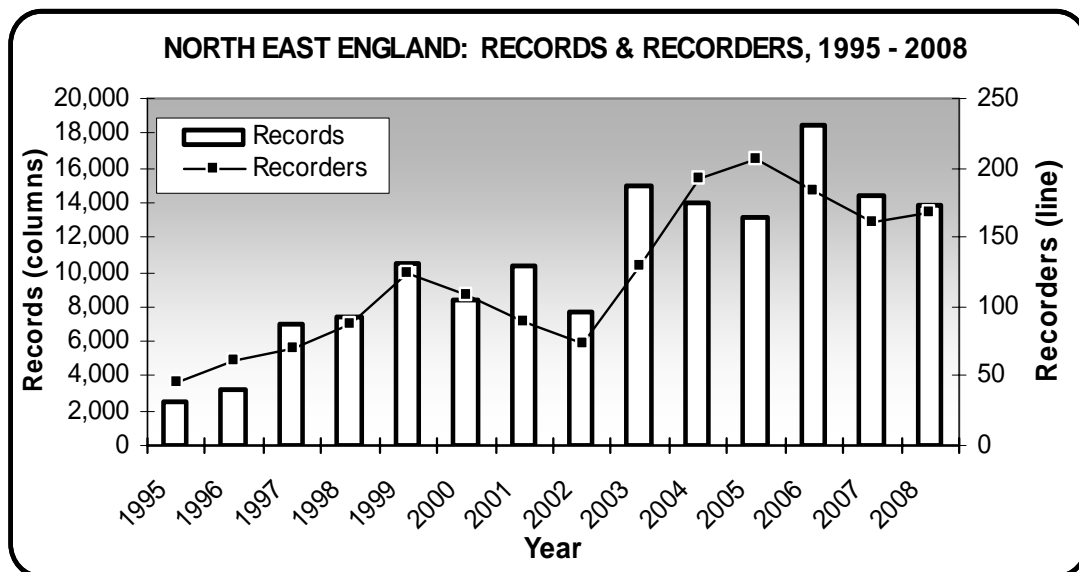
RECORDERS' REVIEW

Introduction: Throughout most of the country, a second successive wet summer meant that 2008 was one of the worst years in recent memory for butterfly recording.



Many species were recorded in very low numbers, and this was probably a true reflection of population size, rather than an artefact of recording effort. However, the season wasn't all doom and gloom! Ringlet and Meadow Brown were less affected by the weather than many species, with the latter species showing a massive increase in recorded numbers compared to the previous year. Speckled Wood is now well established in many areas, and is continuing its northwards spread along the coastline. Brown Argus also continues to make inroads in to our region, with the first spring record of this species – as mentioned in earlier reports, this species is certainly under-recorded in our region (and probably elsewhere). The most exciting news however was probably the unprecedented number of Gatekeeper records – has this species finally become a *bona fide* breeding species in our region? The increase of this species in our region is all the more intriguing as it is not mirrored by a similar increase in Yorkshire – it seems to have made a leap rather than the steady northwards spread shown by Speckled Wood and Brown Argus.

The graph below shows that our records database grew steadily over the first part of the Butterflies for the New Millennium Project and that recorders have maintained their enthusiasm over the subsequent years, despite the fluctuations in our summer weather that we have experienced recently.



A massive thank you is due to all recorders for painstakingly taking the time to collate and send in your records, either during or at the end of the season. We know the effort this requires, and hope that in producing this 2008 Butterfly Annual Report, we have done justice to you all. The recorders would like to thank everyone who sent records in, without whom, this report would not be possible. We hope that you find it interesting and a valuable record of the year's butterfly action.

ENTOMOLOGICAL MONTHLY SUMMARY 2008

JANUARY: Four butterflies were recorded on the wing in the second half of the month, of three species: Peacock, Red Admiral, and Small Tortoiseshell. White-letter Hairstreak ova, and Small Copper larvae were also recorded – an identical situation to January 2007!

FEBRUARY: Peacock, Red Admiral, and Small Tortoiseshell were all recorded flying throughout February

MARCH: As well as the three species already recorded, Comma appeared mid-way through the month, and Orange-tip recorded on the last day of March. The majority of the records in March came in the last two days of the month.

APRIL: The 1st of April saw Large White emerge, followed two days later by Small White. Holly blue was the next species to appear, with Speckled Wood emerging a few days later. Small Copper appeared shortly afterwards, followed by Green-veined White, bringing the total number of species flying to eleven.

MAY: Green Hairstreak was the next species to emerge in our region – later than in previous years. Common Blue was sighted the following day, then Painted Lady a day later, the first of five this month in what was to be a very poor year for this species. Wall Brown also emerged the same day, followed on consecutive days by Dingy Skipper and Brimstone. Small Heath emerged in the third week, and at the end of the month we had the first spring sighting of Brown Argus in our region. Finally, Large Skipper emerged on the last day of the month.

JUNE: The next species to appear in 2008 was Meadow Brown, at the beginning of the month, followed by Northern Brown Argus a day later. Small Skipper put in an early appearance this month, with Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary emerging shortly afterwards. Towards the middle of the month, Ringlet was sighted – the last new species to emerge this month, bringing the total number of species on the wing in June to 22.

JULY: The first of the month saw Large Heath and Marbled White put in an appearance, with Dark Green Fritillary emerging the following day. Grayling was the next species to emerge, mid-way through the month. White-letter Hairstreak followed a week later – a very late first record for this species, which normally is on the wing a month earlier. Shortly afterwards, Purple Hairstreak emerged, on the same day as Gatekeeper – the first of five records this month.

AUGUST: Three more Gatekeeper records in the first half of the month made this the best year on record for this species in our region. However, poor

weather meant that most of our other species didn't fare so well. Both White-letter and Purple Hairstreak persisted until the end of the month, with the final sighting of White-letter equalling the record latest date.

SEPTEMBER: Brown Argus was once recorded at the end of the month, with the last sighting being a record latest date. Four other species ended their flight period in September, namely Grayling, Painted Lady, Small Skipper, and Holly Blue.



Ringlet, a species that appeared to flourish in 2008, despite the weather, photo by Mike Richardson

OCTOBER: Thirteen species were still on the wing in October, with nine of these coming to the end of their flight period. Both Small Heath and Common Blue were seen on record latest dates. White-letter Hairstreak ova were also recorded.

NOVEMBER: Only four species were still on the wing this month – Comma, Peacock, Red Admiral, and a single Small Tortoiseshell.

DECEMBER: Only a single Peacock was seen in December, at the beginning of the month.

WEATHER SUMMARY 2008

Copley Observatory, 9 km NNE of Barnard Castle, Co Durham

Elevation 253 metres (830ft) Grid Reference NZ 084 254

2008	Temperature (°C)							Rain (mm)			
Month	Mean max	Mean min	Mean	Max	Date	Min	Date	Rain	Rain days	Max obs	Date
Jan	6.5	1.3	3.9	10.5	18	-4.3	03	133.7	28	26.1	21
Feb	7.9	-0.4	3.7	13.9	12	-10.7	20	28.0	14	5.7	29
Mar	7.9	0.7	4.1	13.3	31	-4.7	05	82.6	23	19.9	29
Apr	9.9	2.3	6.1	17.0	03	-4.3	06	72.0	23	20.3	29
May	14.9	6.3	10.6	23.4	10	-2.6	20	23.0	8	6.6	28
Jun	16.5	7.8	12.1	23.8	08	2.1	16	74.7	18	22.3	21
Jul	19.5	10.6	15.1	27.0	27	5.4	20	134.0	20	29.0	09
Aug	18.0	11.2	14.6	21.4	06	7.6	09	106.6	24	25.9	16
Sep	15.1	8.6	11.9	19.1	20	3.7	05	119.3	19	56.5	05
Oct	11.0	4.2	7.6	15.9	10	-2.4	30	96.8	20	14.8	07
Nov	7.4	2.7	5.1	11.4	13	-5.3	29	53.2	19	9.5	09
Dec	4.7	-0.2	2.3	10.2	21	-5.9	31	64.1	16	19.3	13

2008 SUMMARY: TEMPERATURE, RAINFALL AND SUNSHINE

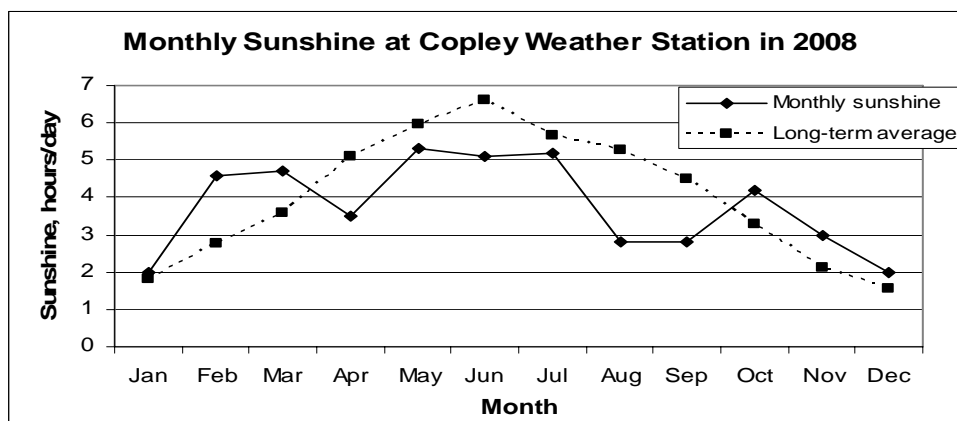
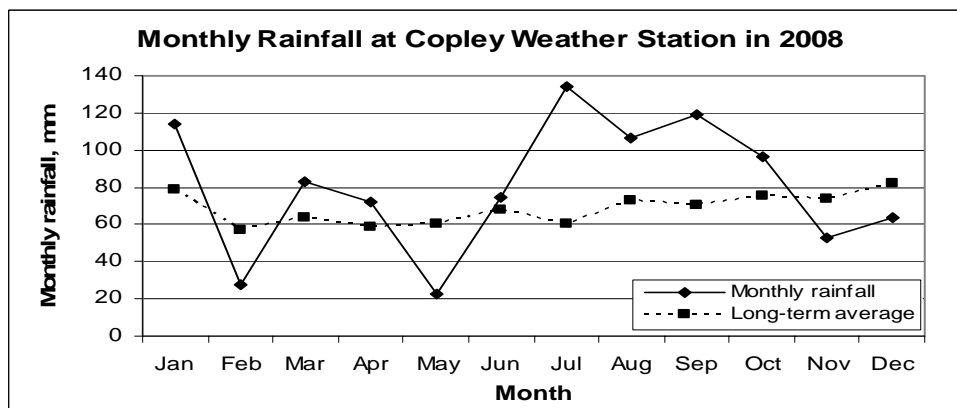
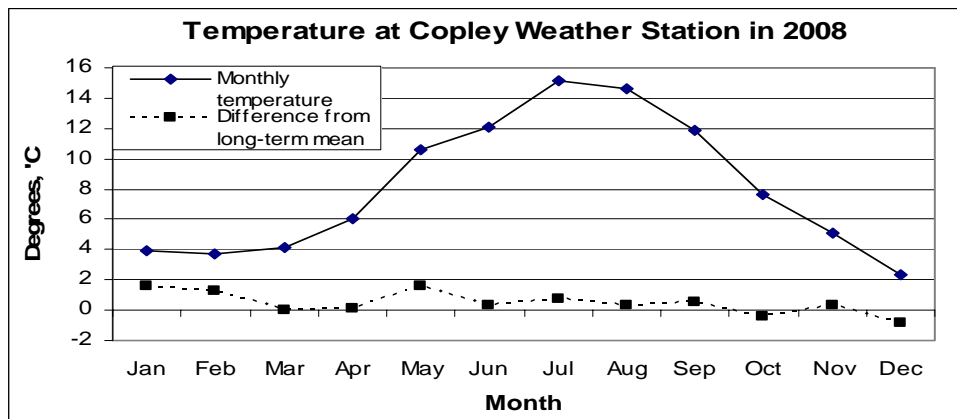
DIFFERENCES FROM 1971 - 2000 AVERAGES

Month	Mean (°C)	°C Difference	Rain (mm)	% Difference	Sun (hr/day)	% Difference
Jan	3.9	1.6	133.7	145	2.0	111
Feb	3.7	1.3	28.0	49	4.6	174
Mar	4.1	0.0	82.6	130	4.7	129
Apr	6.1	0.1	72.0	123	3.5	68
May	10.6	1.6	23.0	38	5.3	84
Jun	12.1	0.3	74.7	110	5.1	77
Jul	15.1	0.8	134.0	223	5.2	93
Aug	14.6	0.3	106.6	146	2.8	53
Sep	11.9	0.5	119.3	169	2.8	62
Oct	7.6	-0.4	96.8	129	4.2	129
Nov	5.1	0.3	53.2	72	3.0	143
Dec	2.3	-0.8	64.1	78	2.0	132
2008	8.1	0.5	988.2	121	3.8	94

Acknowledgments: The Branch is again grateful to Ken Cook of the Copley Climatological Station (<http://copley.website.orange.co.uk>) for providing the statistical weather data as shown above. Ken comments that in spite of a

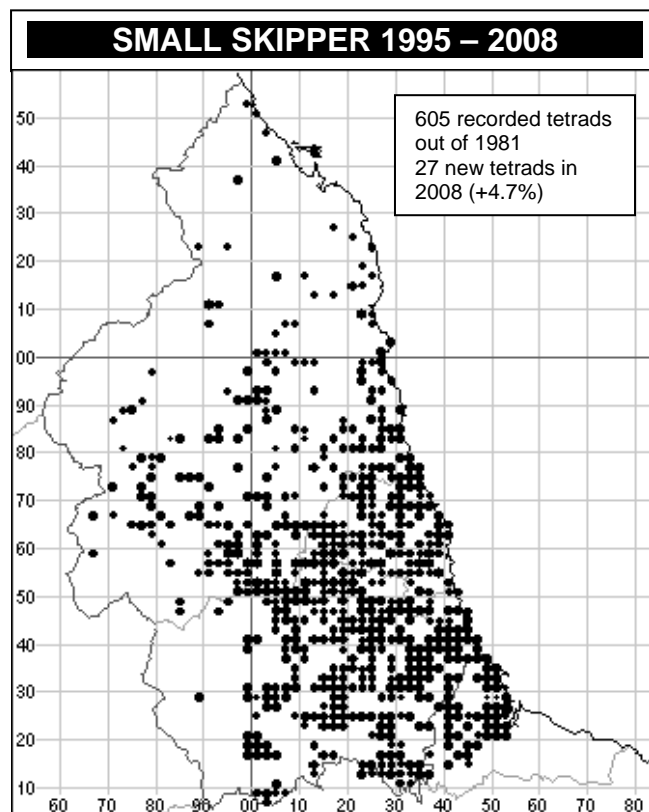
cooler year than recently only October and December were below the long-term average. Summer was disappointingly dull and wet. Given the strong links climate and weather have on butterflies, this data provides valuable context to the annual report. Butterfly Conservation would like to thank Ken for collating the data above, and for allowing its subsequent use in this report.

The three graphs below show the main features of the weather in 2008. Not just the butterflies were affected. Rainfall was very high through the summer months of July, August and September when we might expect peak numbers of many species, both single generation ones and the second generation of double brooded species. The whole spring and summer was also below average for sunshine right through the six months from April to September.



Small Skipper (*Thymelicus sylvestris*)

2008: Despite the wet weather in 2008, the total numbers of records and individuals were similar to those of 2007, also a disappointing year in terms of weather. There were 514 records over the season, comprising a total of 4108 individuals. Small skipper generally remains a species of County Durham and the southern half of Northumberland, with only five records in 2008 in the 100km square NU and two reports from the NT square.



The season started with a trio of early records for Durham, Helen Carlton recording one at her Gibside transect on 7th June, and two on 16th, and Brian Denham, three at his Whinnies transect on 9th. Northumberland records did not begin till later with the first on 23rd by Ian Davidson at Branton Gravel Pits, followed by a single at Big Waters NR reported by Alan Johnson on 29th. On 23rd, Barbara Walton reported eight at the Whinnies transect. Numbers recorded then slowly increased, peaking on 27th July when a daily total of 482 for the region were reported.

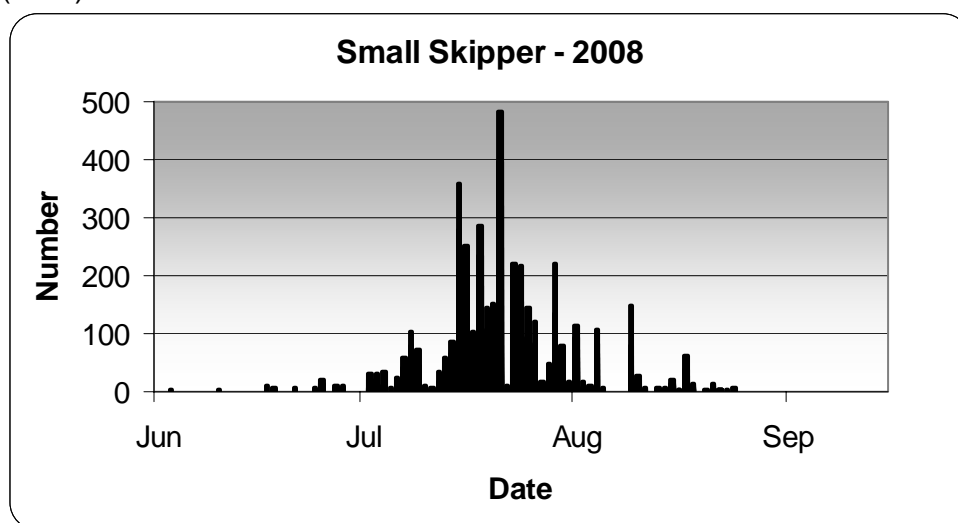
The highest count in Durham was by Dave Liddle with 86 at his Burn Hill transect on 4th August, with the next largest counts for the county being both by Barbara Walton on the Whinnies transect with 78 and 76 on 21st and 28th July respectively. In Northumberland, the peak counts were both by Hew Ellis, a total of 157 in two areas at Silverlink, near North Shields on 27th July and 74 at Big Waters on 21st.

The last Northumberland records were both singles on the 28th August, Keith Smith finding one at Earsdon Junction and Hew Ellis, one at Weetslade CP. There was then a run of Durham records, with four reports in September, the first three by Bob Mawson at Raisby Way with singles on 1st and 4th, and one at Trimdon Pit Heap on 2nd. The last record for the year was then in the far south on the county at the Whinnies transect by Barbara Walton on 21st. Despite the September records in Durham, there have been no Northumberland records for September since 2002.

Is there perhaps a slow expansion taking place in the north of Northumberland, or are the new squares a reflection of greater observer

effort? Following the new 10km square found in 2007, (NT82). there were two more new 10km squares reported in 2008, with singles by Fiona Aungier at Tommy-the-Millers Field transect on 16th July, (NT95), and by the Alnwick Wildlife Group at Ford Moss on 9th August, (NT93). This latter site is 8km from the site at Kyloe Quarry where there was a planned release in 2000.

Bob Mawson reported Small Skipper mating at Raisby Way on 20th August and Hew Ellis found ova at three sites in South-east Northumberland between 25th July and 19th August. Small skipper was recorded in 133 tetrads, of which 27 were new, an increase of 4.7% on the BNM total to 2007 of 578 tetrads. It was on the wing for 66 days out of a flight period of 107 days, (62%).



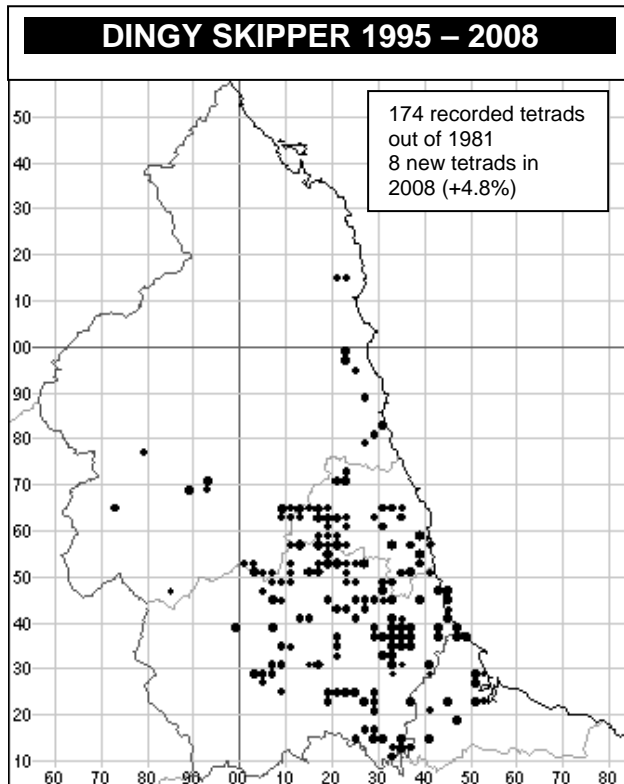
Large Skipper (*Ochlodes faunus*)

2008: A total of two hundred and fifty-seven records were received. These recorded 696 individual butterflies. Numbers recorded were considerably down for this butterfly in the north east, but perhaps not as bad as in other parts of the country. The UK Butterfly Monitoring Scheme records revealed that in 2008 the Large Skipper had its “worst year on record” over the country as a whole. However, in the north east I believe 2002 was a worse year than 2008.

There was quite a late start to the season probably due to the prolonged cold spring. The first record was received from Marty Anderson and Liz Naughton who saw two at Druridge Pools on 31st May. This has been a traditionally good site for Large Skipper. The first Durham record came from Bob Mawson with one on Raisby Way on 4th June.

The flight season was shorter than normal with the peak being the first week in July. The highest counts received were from Barry and Jean Robinson who saw 14 at Ford Quarry, Sunderland, on 21st July and Heather Dunn with 12 at Heathers Field near Blaydon on 14th June.

The season came to an end in Northumberland with one seen by David Blair in Jesmond Dene, Newcastle on 10th August.

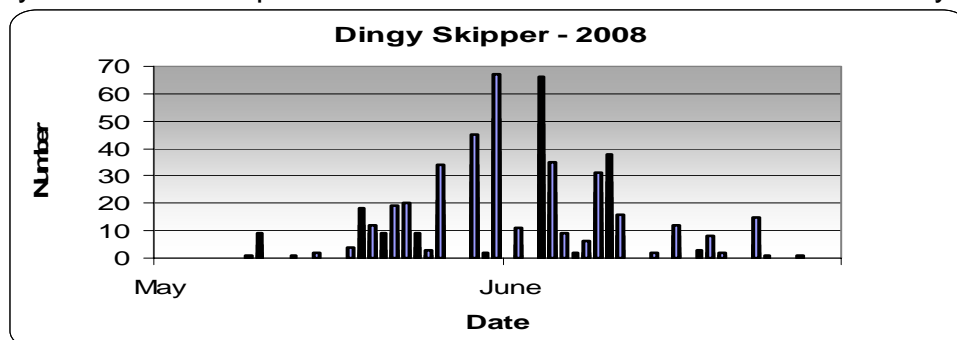


Double-figure counts from sites not previously mentioned were as follows: Burn Hill (12 & 11 adults, Dave Liddle, May 31st & June 5th respectively); Havannah LNR (10 adults, Dave Stebbings, June 4th & June 10th); Morrison Busty Pit Yard (11 adults, Steven Hutchinson, June 4th) and Stargate Sand Quarry (10 adults, Brian Pollinger, June 23rd). The region's highest count of 17 was made by Bob Mawson (Raisby Way) on June 4th. Northumberland's season ended on June 24th, when Dave Stebbings saw a solitary butterfly at Havannah. Steve le Fleming saw Durham's latest, again a single, at Bishop

Middleham Quarry on June 27th.

In common with many other species, Dingy Skipper fared poorly in 2008. The region's annual total of 518 was substantially lower than the previous year's 582. Double-figure counts were rare and no count exceeded 20 adults, a very unusual phenomenon for the region. The low annual total would not appear to have resulted from poor weather, as records were received for 33 days of the 51-day flight period (65%). This slightly exceeds the 2007 figure (64%) and is not substantially lower than that of 2006 (70%).

The only good news was the number of new sites that were discovered. Special mention should go to Matt Hawking and Richard Hockin, both of whom identified several previously-unknown sites, the majority located in the South Tyneside area. Although regularly surveyed, South Tyneside was not known to support the butterfly until a couple of years ago. It is therefore probable that these discoveries reflect recent colonisations, as opposed to the discovery of long-established populations. Similarly, Tim and Dorothy Nelson found the butterfly at North Gare; this area has been well-surveyed in the past by a number of experienced recorders without success...until this year.

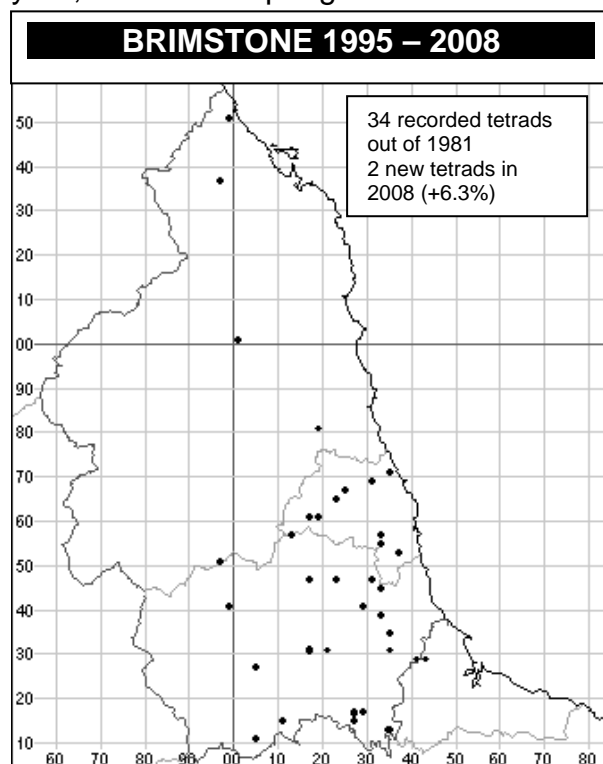


Clouded Yellow (*Colias croceus*)

2008: After 2006 produced a tremendous season and there were four records in 2007, there were no records at all in 2008. This is the first blank year since 2004.

Brimstone (*Gonepteryx rhamni*)

2008: Reflecting the generally poor spring, there were only two records this year, both in the spring.

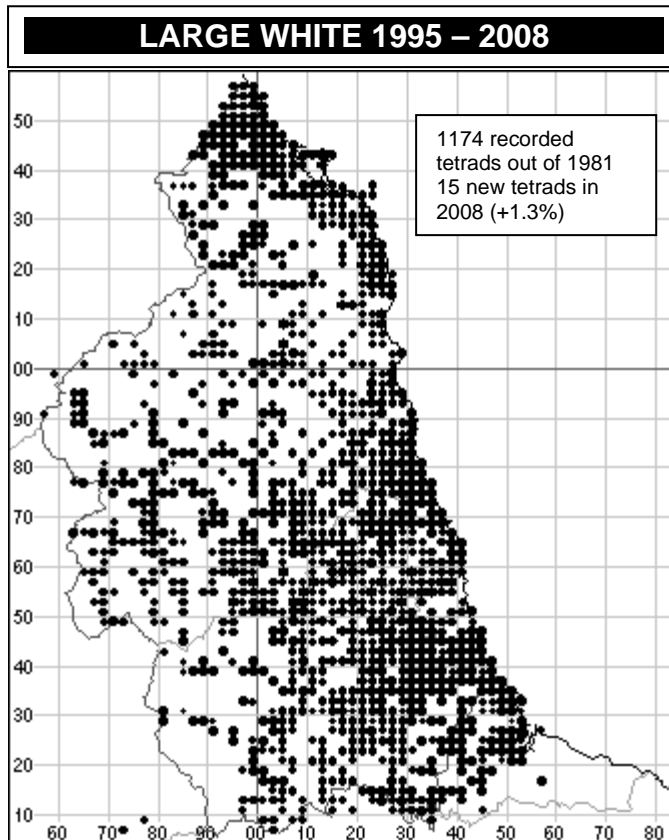


The first was by Dave Wainwright on 10th May at Houghall Woods, near Durham and the second by Anne Corrigan at Penshaw Monument on 1st July. Whilst Brimstone is an established species as close as the southern escarpment of the North York Moors, it clearly remains only a rare vagrant in the north-east. This very mobile species needs either Common or Alder Buckthorn for breeding and the northern limits of these species lie to the south of our region so any colonisation may have to rely on amenity or garden planting.

Large White (*Pieris brassicae*)

2008: Judging by the number of records received, (1426), and the number of individuals reported, (4630), Large White had a much better season than in 2007, when fewer than a thousand records came in, though it was still down on the hot summer of 2006.

Remarkably, the first four Durham records all came from Graham Mitchell, with the first and second at Hardwick Hall on the 1st and 14th April. The earliest Northumberland sightings came from Roger Norman on 3rd April in Newcastle. There was then a surge of records from 26th onwards, with the peak daily total of 34 for this generation occurring on 23rd May. The peak counts were all in single figures with Hew Ellis recording eight at Bedlington Riverside and Seaton Sluice on 25th May and 14th June respectively and Ian Davidson at Big Waters NR on 5th June. There was then a trickle of records until the second generation emerged in force around the 22nd July. This peaked on 15th August when 298 were reported.

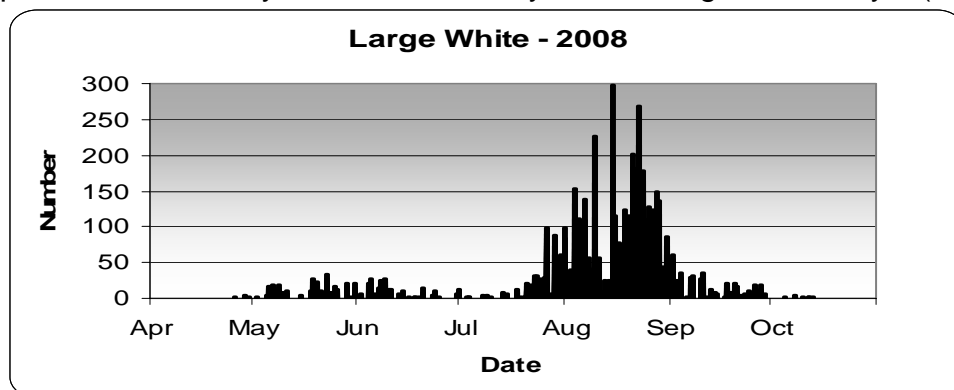


The highest individual count for Northumberland was by David Nicol with 100 at Whittle Wood, near Corbridge on 15th August, followed by Keith Smith with 53 at Cobalt Park near North Shields on 23rd. Barbara Walton counted the most in Durham with 65 at the Whinnies transect on 10th August.

The last records for the season in Co. Durham were from Mike Hunter with a single in Darlington on 5th October, followed by Andrew Paciorek at Howden-le-Wear with two on 10th. The last Northumberland records were both in Newcastle, two

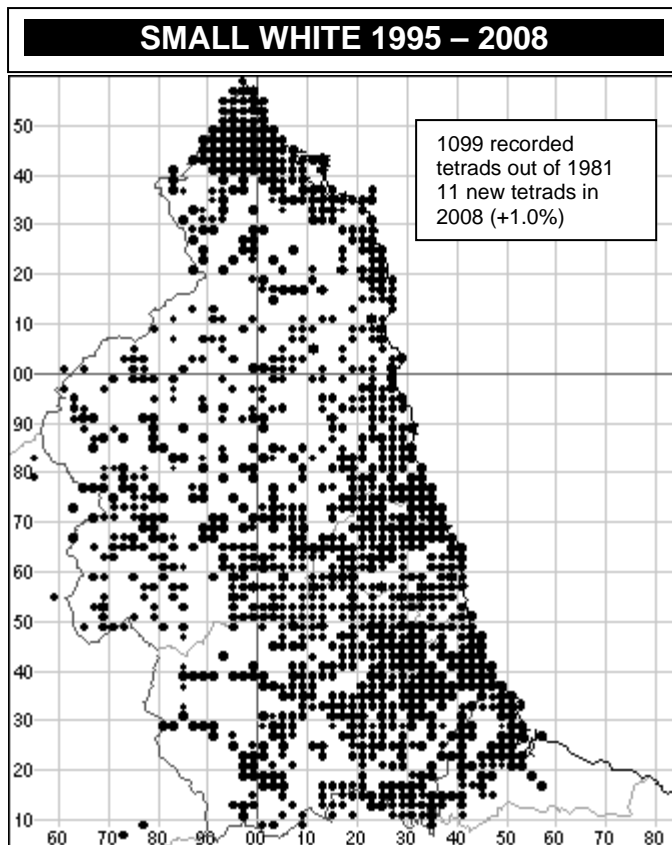
on 13th at Kenton were seen by Roger Norman and a single was at South Gosforth, found by Alan Davis the same day.

Large White was reported from 221 tetrads, of which 15 were new. The flight period was 196 days, with the butterfly on the wing for 142 days, (72%).



Small White (*Pieris rapae*)

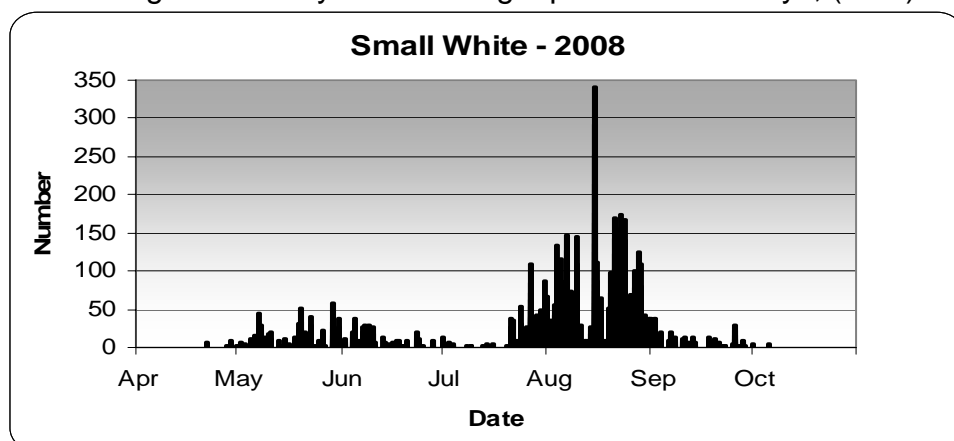
2008: This is our second commonest white, (after Large White) and was seen in 185 tetrads, 11 of which were new. In a generally slow start to the season, the first record for the year was on the 3rd April, this was in Wallsend and was recorded by Ian Davidson. This was followed by a record on 16th April by Peter Harvey in Blaydon. Ones and twos were recorded throughout April and up to 5th May when double figures were finally reached. This was a record of 10 seen by Tom Thirlaway in a garden in Gilsland.



Numbers increased during May and peak numbers were reached on the 29th May when a total of 59 were recorded. This was when Leslie Cook had the highest spring count with 25 at Tommy-the-Miller's Field transect in Berwick. Records then dwindled through June and there was a lull in records for the first half of July with the second generation appearing on 21st July when a total of 39 were noted. Numbers then increased rapidly with a remarkable total of 341 being noted on 15th August. In contrast to last year when the first and second generation peaks were about

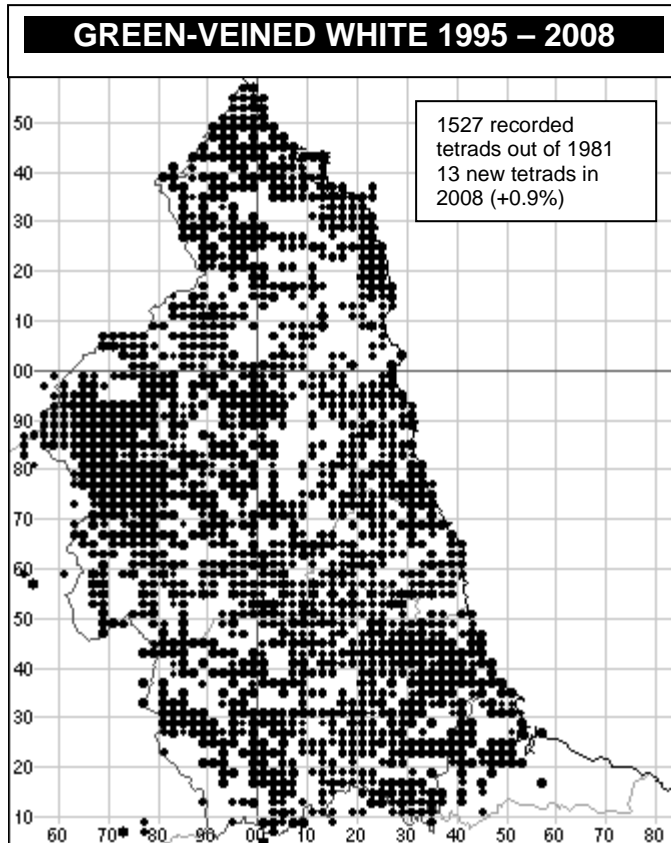
the same height, the spring peak was much reduced, but the summer peak was much greater. The peak individual counts for this second generation were 64 by Pippa Smaling on her West Park transect in Darlington on 4th August, and by Keith Smith who recorded 73 on two adjacent areas of West Allotment in Northumberland on 10th. John Rae also found 48 on the Tommy-the-Miller's Field transect on 15th. The last Durham records were singles by Tim & Dorothy Nelson in a Stockton garden on the 1st October and by Andrew Paciorek at Howdon-le-Wear on 6th. In Northumberland, Jaci Beaven had three on 1st in Alnwick and Keith Smith then found the last with a total of four between Wylam and Newburn on 6th with the last at Riding Mill on the 8th October, also by Keith.

There were 1089 records for the year and 4271 individuals. Small White was on the wing for 146 days out of a flight period of 189 days, (77%).



Green-veined White (*Pieris napi*)

2008: This remains our most widespread butterfly and records were generally similar to those for 2007, with 950 reports of 3291 individuals, distributed over 207 tetrads. The numbers of records and individuals were slightly up on 2007, from 871 and 2803 respectively with the number of tetrads slightly down, from 238.



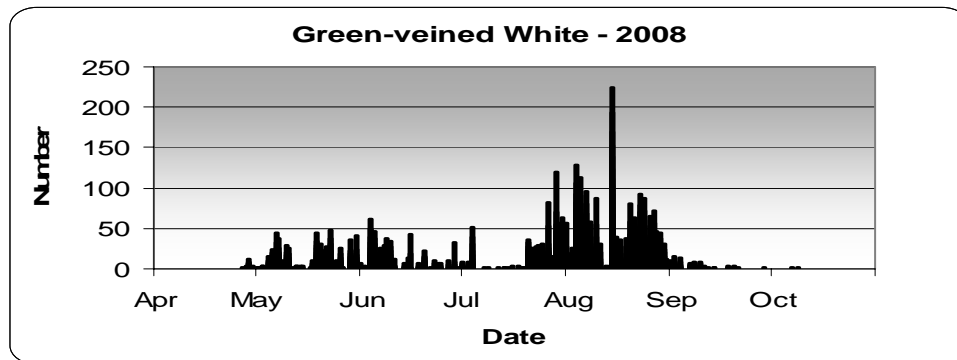
There was a very late start to the season with no records until 27th April when Mr. G. Simpson recorded one for Co. Durham at Shibdon Pond, there were then two Northumberland records the following day. Mike Richardson had one at Houghton Strother Quarry and Keith Smith saw two at the Spetchells. There were then eight records for 29th April, ranging from Howden-le-Wear in the south of the region, where Yolanda Paciorek reported one, to Smeafield in the north, where the Alnwick Wildlife Group also recorded one. The first generation then appeared to

be present until 4th July with a peak daily count of 62 on 4th June. Both the two highest counts came from Northumberland by Dave Stebbings, with 25 in the Wark Forest on 16th June and 24 at Mill Burn NR near Elsdon on 29th.

The second generation got going on 21st July and peaked on 15th August when 225 individuals were noted. The largest individual count was by the Alnwick Wildlife Group at Smeafield with 50 on 29th July with the next highest counts being 34 by Barbara Walton at the Whinnies transect on 10th August and 32 by Mike Richardson at Whittle Dene Reservoirs on 8th. The last Durham records were from Mrs. P. Johnstone with singles in a Darlington garden on 29th September and 7th October. The last Northumberland records surprisingly came from the north of the county, with singles by the Alnwick Wildlife Group at Budle Point on 14th September, followed by a late sighting by the Farne Islands wardens on the Inner Group on 9th October.

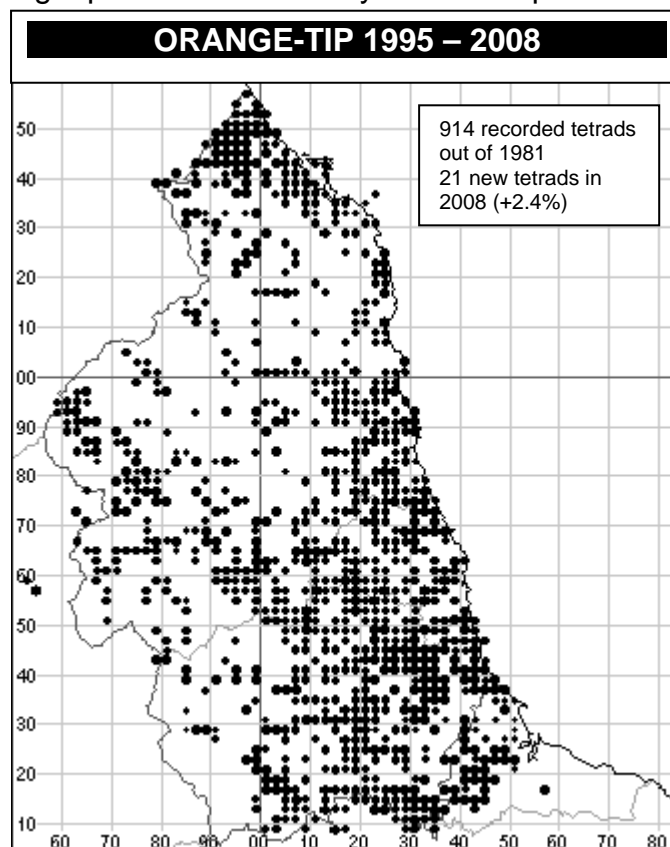
Bob Mawson recorded mating at Trimdon Grange Quarry on 22nd May and at Double Dyke on 29th July. Hew Ellis found ova at Brierdene on 20th May and in Holywell Dene on 16th August.

Thirteen new tetrads were added to the BNM total of 1514. Green-veined White was on the wing for 128 days out of a total flight period of 166 days, (77%). No new 10km squares remain to be found.



Orange Tip (*Anthocharis cardamines*)

2008: Records for the year were comparable with the three previous years with 541 records of Orange Tip submitted in 2008, but the 1,522 individuals seen was substantially lower than the totals for 2007 (2,242) or 2006 (2,013). The species was recorded in 167 tetrads in 2008, of which 21 were new. The flight period lasted 86 days and the species was reported on 54 days (63%).



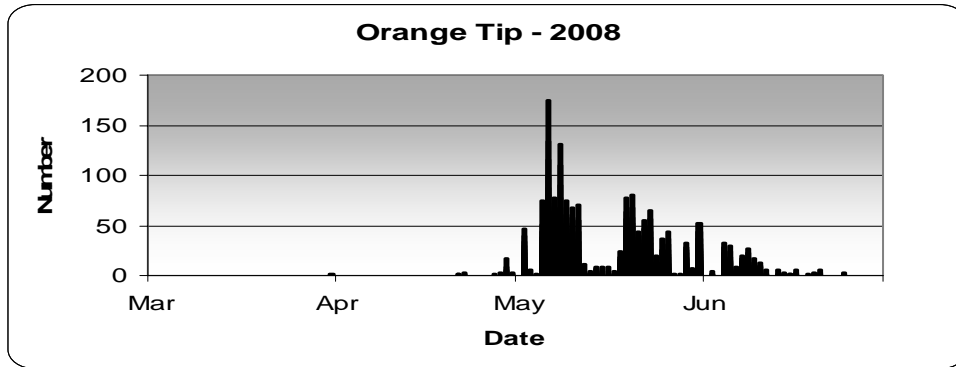
The first sighting of the year, of a single individual, was made in Dunston by Andy McLay on the very early date of 31st March. This is the second earliest record since 2001, (the earliest being on 30th March in 2003). It was a full three weeks after this sighting that the next records, both of singletons, were made by Keith Smith at Wylam Picnic Site and Mr. Simpson at Shibdon Pond on 21st April. Numbers slowly picked up towards the end of April and then steadily increased to a peak on 6th May when there were 37 records and a total of 175 individuals. The highest

individual count was by Alnwick Wildlife Group who recorded 40 individuals at Long Walk, Howick. The next highest totals were 24 recorded at Wylam Picnic Site by Keith Smith on 5th May and 21 recorded by Andrew Paciorek at Low Barns Nature Reserve on 8th May.

Numbers fell away in the middle of May before rising again to a second peak on 20th May when there were 32 records and a total of 78 individual

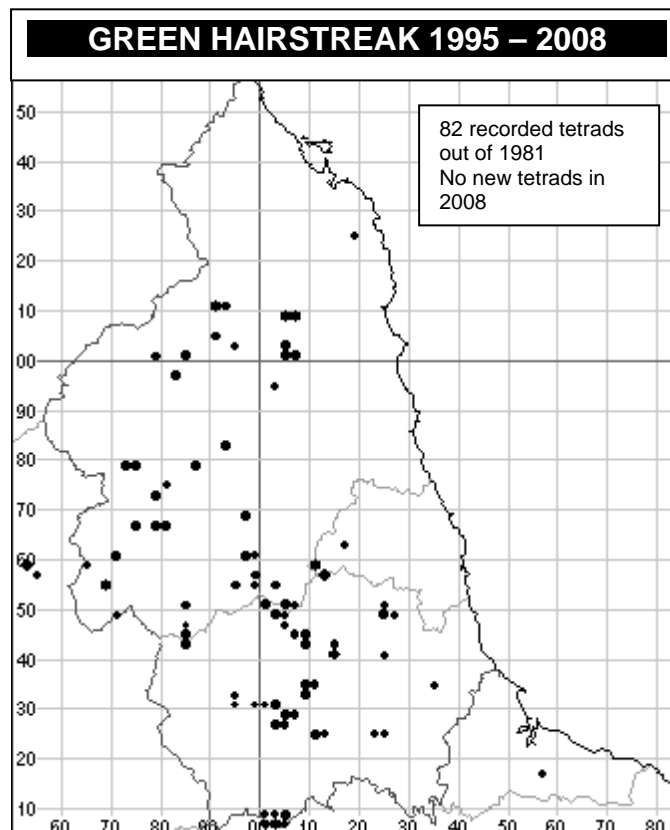
butterflies. From this point onwards numbers declined and the last records for both counties were made on 24th June by Hew Ellis in Whitley Bay and Bob Mawson at Raisby Way near Trimdon Grange.

One larval record was submitted, by Hew Ellis, from Big Waters near Brunswick Village on 5th June. Hew also submitted 11 records of ova. Ova records were also submitted by Mike Hunter and Bob Mawson who also recorded a mating pair of Orange Tips at Raisby Way on 26th May.



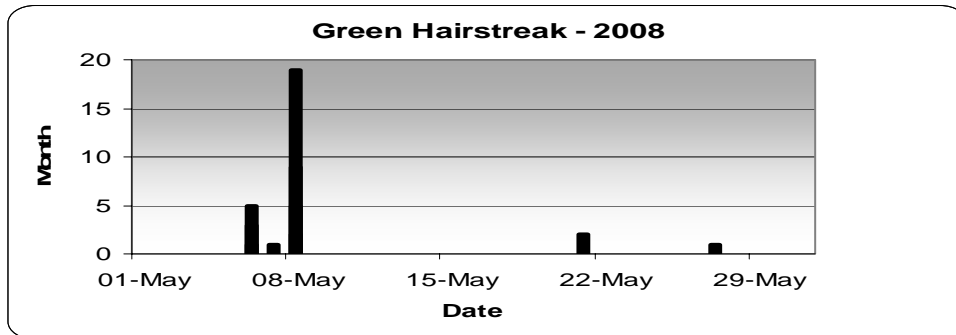
Green Hairstreak (*Callophrys rubi*)

2008: Only 10 records were received in 2008 with a total of 28 butterflies. Records came from 6 tetrads, with no new ones being recorded, making 2008 a dismal year for this species.



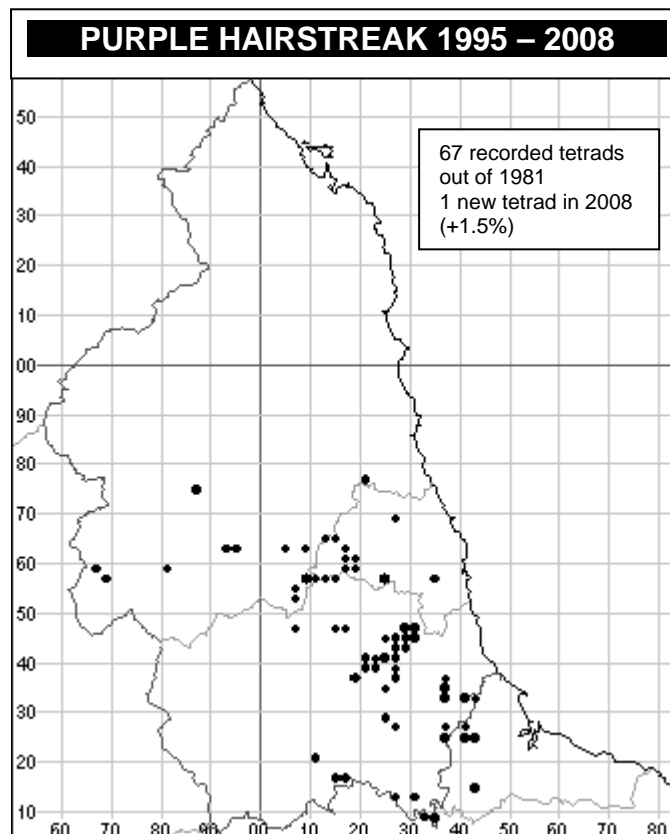
The first sightings came on 6th May, with Roger Norman recording a single at Dipton Woods, whilst Mike Hunter and Dave Liddle recorded 2 each at Knitsley Fell and Burn Hill respectively. Most of the remainder of the sightings were made in the next 2 days, with the year's peak count made on 8th May, when Keith Smith counted 10 at Dipton Woods. There were no more records until 21st May, when Roger Norman counted 2 at Dipton Woods, followed by the year's final sighting, a single from Dave Wainwright at his Hedleyhope Fell transect.

Green Hairstreak was seen on the wing for only 5 days out of a potential 22 (23%). It may be assumed that the poor weather in May is responsible for the paucity of records, although whether this had a greater effect on recorders or butterflies remains to be seen.



Purple Hairstreak (*Neozephyrus quercus*)

2008: This was another poor year for Purple Hairstreak, with only 11 reports received, from 8 tetrads, although 33 individuals were recorded – slightly higher than in 2007.

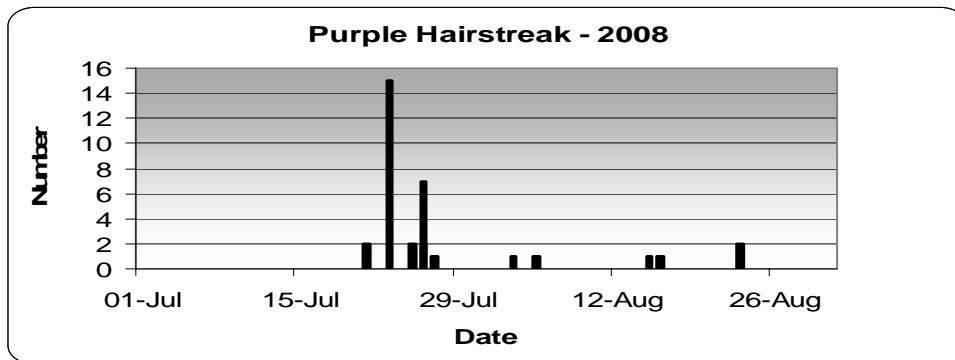


Purple Hairstreak was recorded on 10 days out of a possible 34 (29%).

Michael Laverick got the season off to a start with his sighting of 2 at Kibblesworth Brickworks Pool on 21st July – a rather late date for this species. Two days later he recorded 15 at the same site – the peak count for 2008. Bob Mawson got the season's next, with 2 at Fox Cover on 25th July.

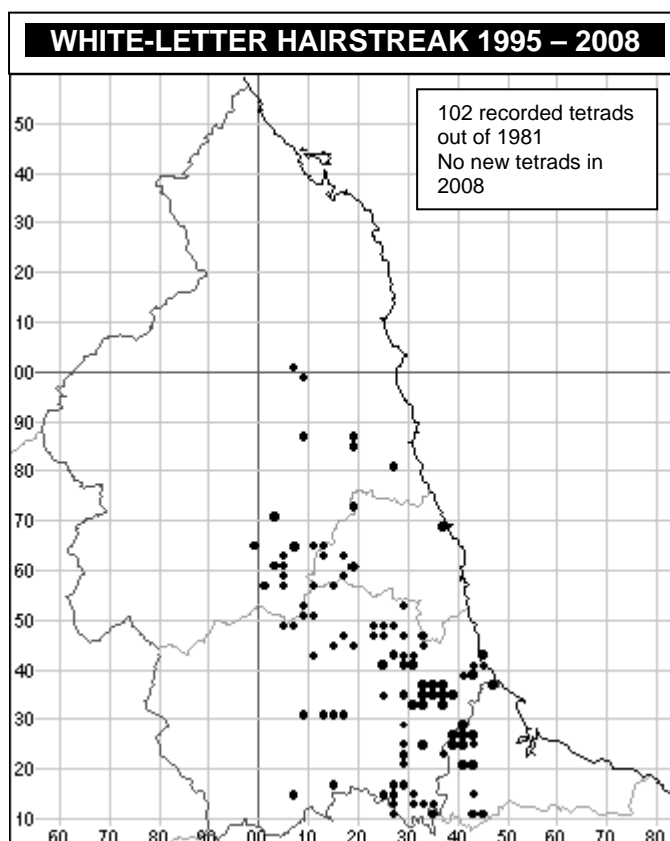
Counts in 2008 were low, with the majority being of ones or twos. The only other exception to this apart from the above mentioned peak count, was Gordon Pollinger's count of 5 at Eelshaugh on 26th July.

The final record for the year came from Bob Mawson, who counted 2 at Fox Cover on 23rd August.



White-letter Hairstreak (*Satyrion w-album*)

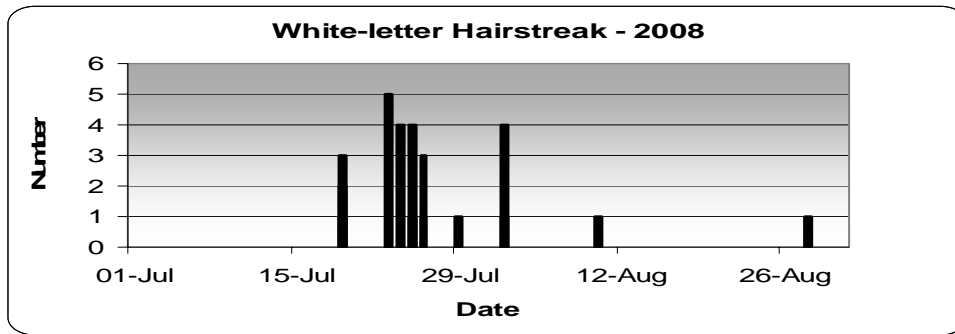
2008: This was a poor year for this species, with only 14 records submitted of 26 butterflies, plus 6 records of ova. This species was recorded from only 8 1km squares, with no new ones being recorded.



The first sightings weren't until 19th July, approximately one month later than usual, with records from Bob Mawson and John Blackburn, both at Raisby Way, and a record from Michael Eccles, at Derwent Valley Country Park. The next sighting was on 23rd July, when Bob Mawson counted 5 at Fox Cover, (near Raisby Way) transect – the highest count of the year! Sightings continued throughout the rest of July, usually of low numbers, with a few in the beginning of August. Bob Mawson recorded a singleton on 10th August, at Fox Cover, and

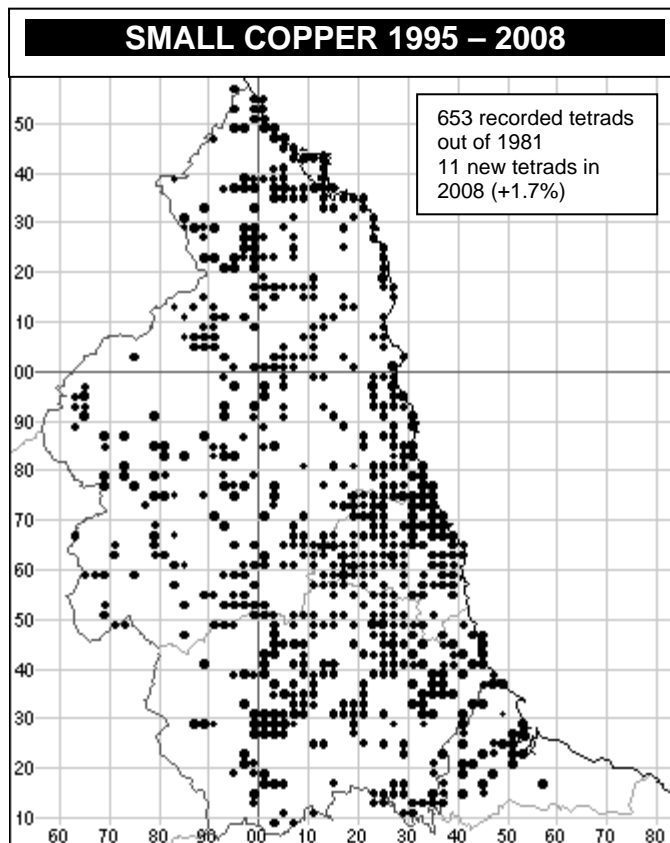
this seemed to be the final sighting of the year. However, there was a surprise record from the end of the month, when David Nicol sighted a singleton at Whittle Wood, near Corbridge, on 28th August, just short of the latest ever record in our region! It may be that the poor summer weather put back the flight period of this butterfly, and it was possibly on the wing through much of August, but went unlooked for.

As well as records of adults, 6 records of ova were also received, all from Bob Mawson, who found 1 in January, and a further 5 in October.



Small Copper (*Lycaena phlaeas*)

2008: Small copper had a similar year to 2007, although both were down on the hot summer of 2006. A total of 340 records were received, slightly down from 384 in the previous year. These recorded eight hundred and fifty-six individual butterflies, somewhat more than in 2007. The number of small coppers seen was considerably down on the very good year of 2006, but was about average for recent years.



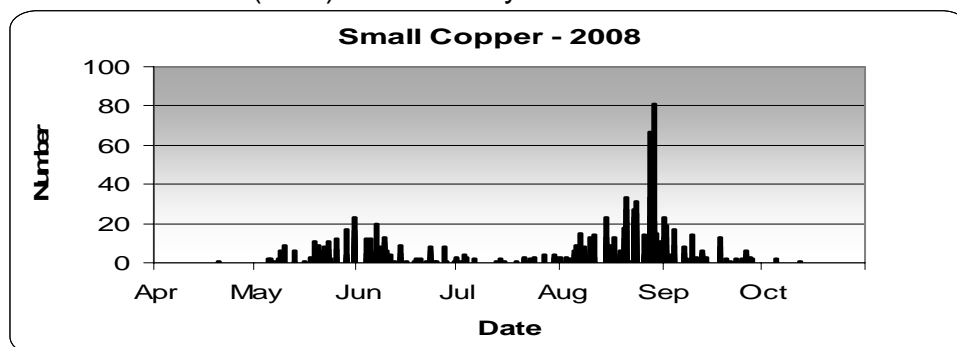
The season started with two Northumberland records, an early single from Leslie Cook on the Tommy-the Miller's Field transect at Berwick on 20th April, followed by two at Ross by the Alnwick Wildlife Group on 5th May. The first Durham records were singles the next day by Bob Mawson at Raisby Way and by Brian Pollinger at Stargate Sand Quarry. The peak counts for the first generation were both of 13, by Bob Mawson at Raisby Way on 31st May and by Hew Ellis at Weetslade Country Park on 7th June. There were few records in July before the second generation emerged in early August.

This peaked at the end of the month when 81 individuals were recorded on 29th. The best individual counts for this generation were both by Hew Ellis, 34 at Weetslade Country Park on 28th August and a remarkable 60 at Druridge Dunes the next day.

The last Durham record was of two from Brian Pollinger at Stargate Ponds and Bewes Hills on 28th September. There were then two later records in Northumberland, with Pam Chrisp recording two on Carrier's Way, on the fells

near Blanchland on 5th October. The final record of the year was then a week later from Hew Ellis on the riverside at Ashington on 12th. There were four records of larvae between 5th January and 11th October and three records of ova between 19th May and 2nd September, all were from Raisby Way by Bob Mawson.

The records covered one hundred and two tetrads, of which only eleven were new tetrads for the species, a very small increase of 1.7% since the start of the BNM project. The flight period covered 176 days and the Small Copper was seen on 102 (58%) of these days.



Brown Argus (*Plebeius (Aricia) agestis*)

2008: Five records were submitted of Brown Argus in 2008, with one not only a new 10km square, but also the first early summer record of this species (all other records have taken place in August and September).

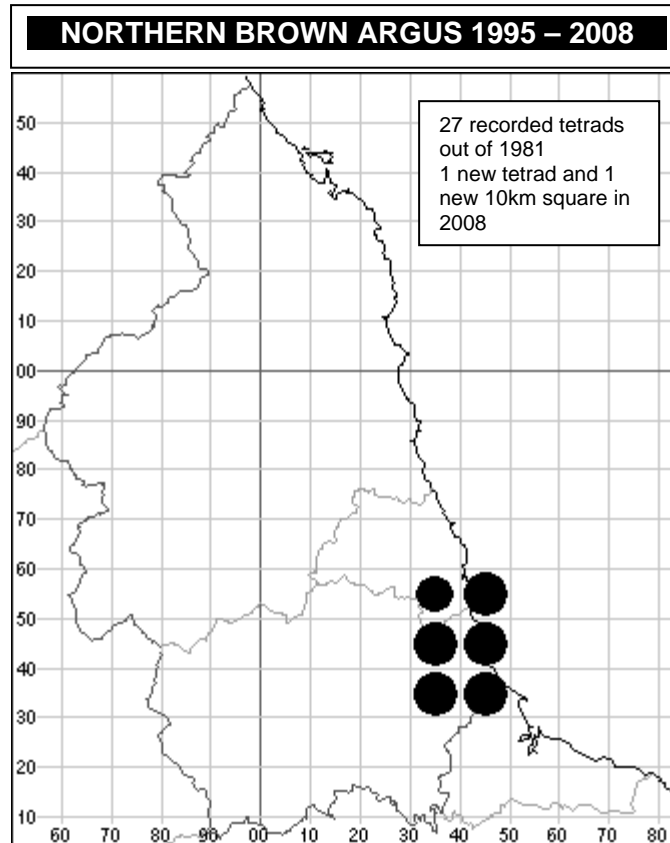
The first record came from Tim & Dorothy Nelson, with a singleton at Dorman's Pool, Port Clarence. The butterfly was photographed, and the photo was published on the Teesmouth Bird Club's website for a time.

No more records were forthcoming until September, when Bob Mawson once again recorded it on his Raisby Way transect, with four sightings between 24th and 27th of September, although it is not known whether these represent daily sightings of the same individual.

It is still likely that this butterfly is widespread throughout the south of our region in areas of suitable habitat, but is probably at a low density, so that finding it is purely a matter of chance. Those who visit a site regularly, such as Site Rangers or transect walkers probably have the best chance of recording this species. Furthermore, the likelihood is that it may be mis-identified as female Common Blue unless it is examined closely, so it is possibly still under-recorded. Recorders are urged to report sightings to the County Recorder or Assistant Recorders as soon as they are made, and to try and photograph the butterfly so that a positive I.D. can be made.

Northern Brown Argus (*Aricia artaxerxes*)

2008: Northern Brown Argus numbers increased substantially compared to the previous year. In 2007, 25 records totalling 158 adults were received. By comparison, 2008 yielded 33 counts totalling 384 butterflies. This is heartening news for a species whose dwindling numbers were giving cause for serious concern.

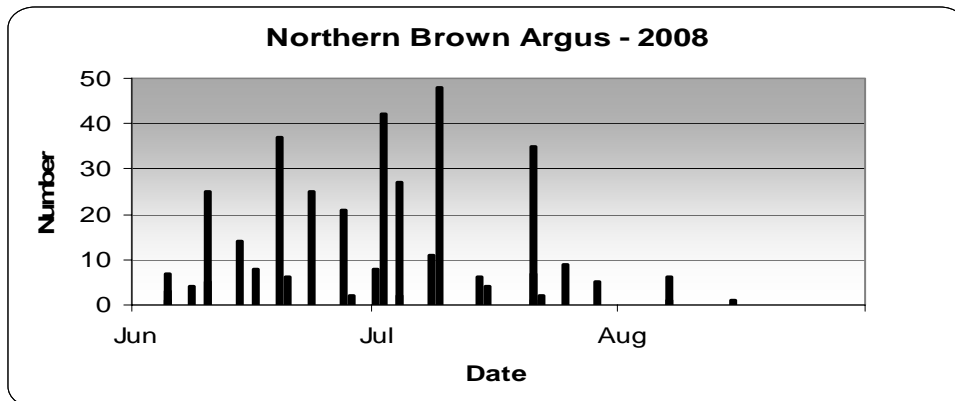


As in previous years, the majority of records came from the three sites within the region that are monitored by transect: Bishop Middleham Quarry, Raisby Hill Grassland and Thrislington Plantation. The season got underway on June 5th, with three recorders tying for earliest record. John Hope counted two at Thrislington, while Steve le Fleming and Bob Mawson reported one and four respectively from Bishop Middleham Quarry. Numbers peaked on 9th July when a total of 48 was recorded – all by John Hope at Thrislington. John's highest weekly count

of 2007 was 28 adults. John also recorded 42 during the previous week's count, indicating that the butterfly had fared pretty well at this site in 2008. Several counts of 20+ were made at Bishop Middleham by: Michael Hampson (20), Keith Smith (25), Steve le Fleming (21) and Tim and Dorothy Nelson (25). The butterfly continues to survive at Raisby Hill Grassland although, as ever, numbers were low. Mark Richardson's count of 2 was the year's highest for this site.

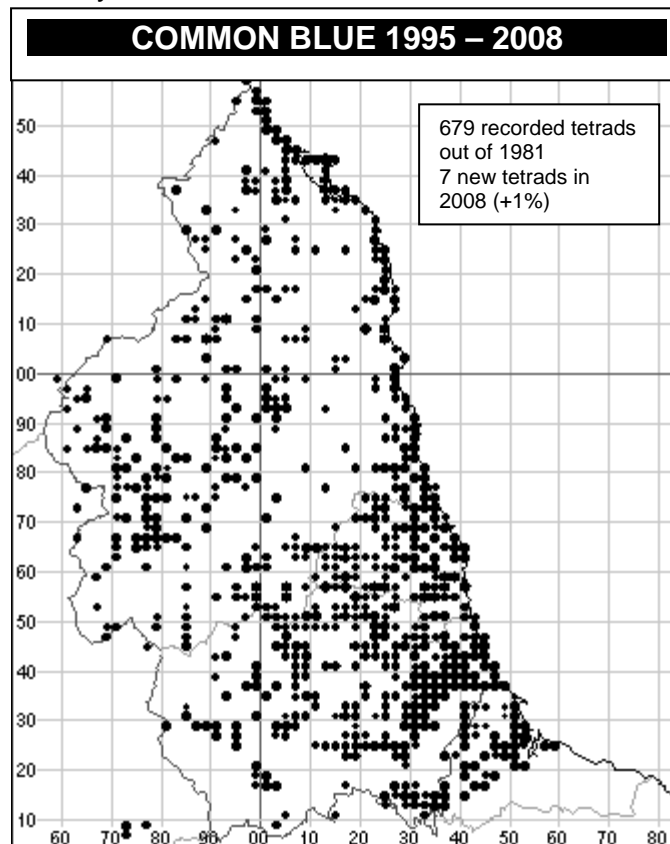
Records were received from three other sites. Michael Hampson reported five from an inland site at Castle Eden Dene on June 10th. Dave Wainwright and Co. saw nine in and around the abandoned quarries in Cassop Vale while searching (unsuccessfully) for Chalk carpet moths. Yet again, there were virtually no records from the coastal colonies. Michael Harris was the intrepid recorder who surveyed Hylton Dene where he saw four adults and found several eggs (these were also the only egg records received). So, a big "well done" to Michael! The coastal colonies are located amidst one of the region's most attractive and interesting landscapes. Further surveys are needed, so if you'd like to help out, please contact dwainwright@butterfly-conservation.org

Northern Brown Argus numbers decreased fairly rapidly after July 21st (hardly a surprise in view of the weather). Mark Richardson saw the last butterfly of the year at Bishop Middleham quarry on August 15th. The butterfly was reported on 24 days during the 72-day flight period (33% of possible days).



Common Blue (*Polyommatus icarus*)

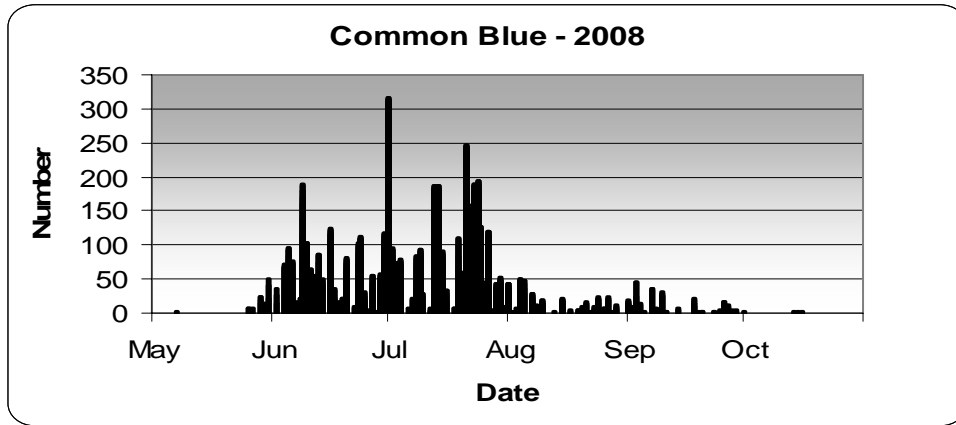
2008: Records for the Common Blue were up on last year with almost double the numbers of individuals seen: 5041 in 660 records (cf. 2575 in 510 records in 2007). An increase of 96% in the numbers of this butterfly seen by a mere 29% increase in records suggests a significant recovery in its population density.



The earliest sighting reported in this region was Mike Hunter's in Darlington on 7th May, though it was almost 3 weeks till the next, from Bob Mawson on 27th May on Raisby Way, nr. Trimdon, and it wasn't until 4th June that the subject reached the Tyne at Hebburn when Matt Hawking found a single. However, by 7th it was already at Druridge Pools where Steve Holliday found one. There were several high daily 'scores' in the period between 10th June and 27th July, including 13 of over 100, one of 248 on 21st July and one of 317 on 1st July. Hew Ellis recorded the

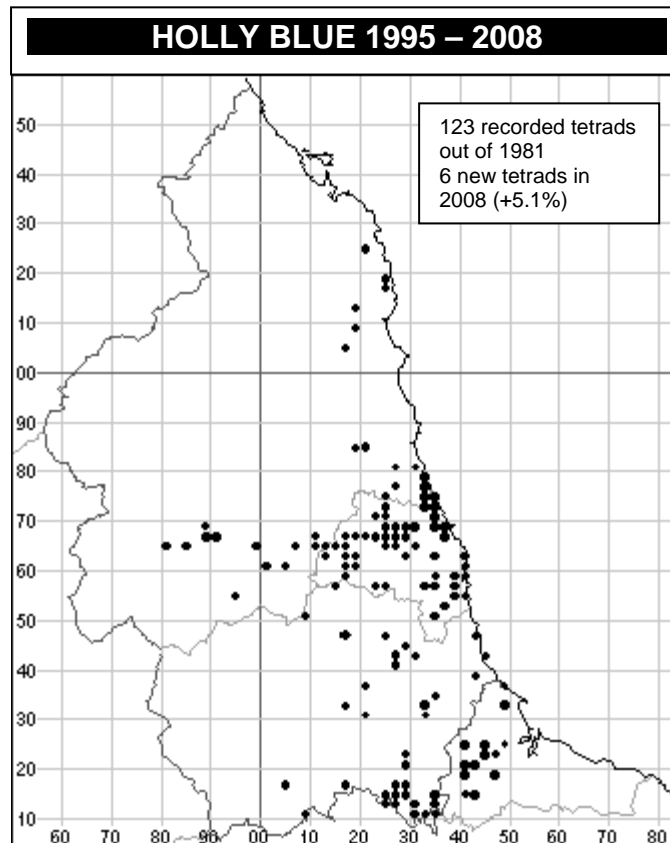
highest individual site count with 115 on grassland and dunes at Cambois on 23rd. The second highest count was of 78 by Dave Stebbings at Havannah NR on 13th July.

Mating pairs were seen on 31st May, 4th and 9th June, 4th July and (optimists?) 4th Sept. Common Blue was seen in 116 tetrads, of which 7 were new. The butterfly was observed on the wing on 123 days of the 173 days from its first sighting to its last, (71%). The last record in Northumberland was by Hew Ellis on 26th September when he found a single at Druridge Bay. The last Durham records were all from Bob Mawson between the 29th September and 26th October at Raisby Way.



Holly Blue (*Celastrina argiolus*)

2008: A total of one hundred and fifty-nine individuals were recorded, and in comparison with the 2007 season, this is a reduction of one hundred and twenty five. Sixty-four records for the first brood were noted, with fifty-seven for the second brood.



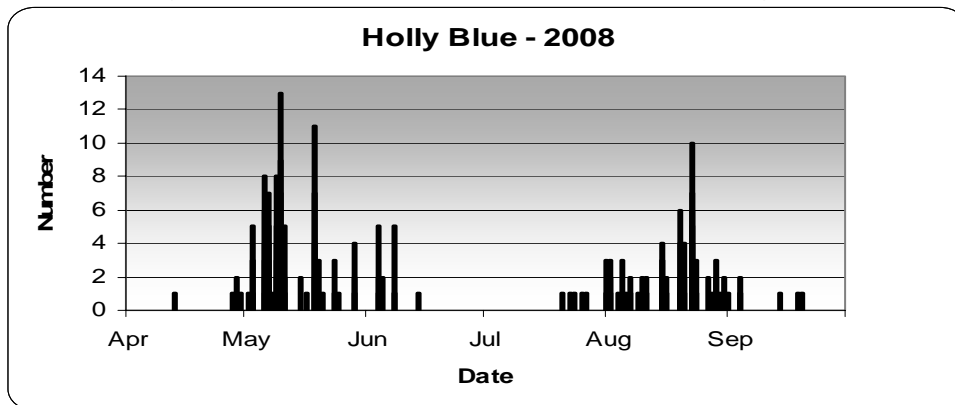
The earliest sighting of the first brood of the Holly Blue was on 13th April at Benton in Newcastle reported by Jim Lawrence and the first Durham sighting was not until 2nd May by Arthur Edwards. The first brood was on the wing until 14th June and then there was a lull until 21st July when the second generation emerged. Peak counts for the spring generation were no more than four by Mike Natrass at Jesmond Old Cemetery in Newcastle on 10th May and at Preston Cemetery in Tynemouth on 19th and by Anne Corrigan at Tunstall Hills on 8th June.

The Alnwick Wildlife Group recorded the most northerly sighting at Craster on 8th May.

The start of the summer brood was signalled by Chris McLaren with a single at Derwent Walk County Park transect with the peak site counts being no more than three by Hew Ellis at Hartley Links on 5th August and by Keith Smith at Jesmond Old Cemetery on 23rd. Alan Davis had the last Northumberland record at South Gosforth on 14th September and the last sighting of the second brood was on 20th, seen by Simon Lamplough at The Oval in Hartlepool. Hew Ellis found ova in Tynemouth in September. The best places to see the insect seem to be city cemeteries. Both Jesmond Old Cemetery and Preston Cemetery recorded the highest number of individuals at a single sighting at four.

The flight period was 161 days and the insect was on the wing on 54 days during the two brood period, (31%). The records show a reduction of 26 days on the wing from the 80 noted over the same period in 2007.

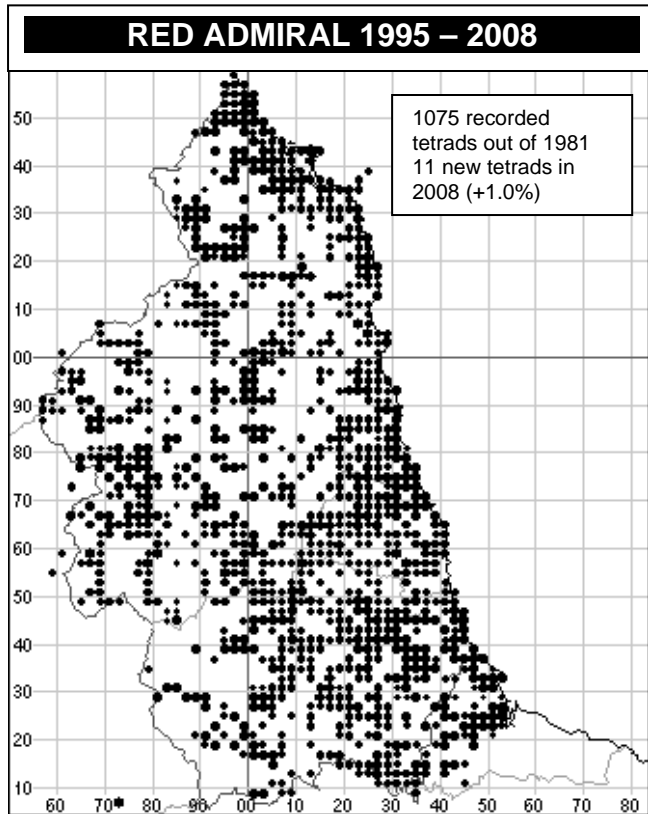
Holly Blue was recorded in 39 tetrads, of which six were new, two each in County Durham, Tyne and Wear and Northumberland. There does not seem to have been any further spread northwards this season, and although the insect is known to have rises and falls in populations, the weather would have played a large part in the low numbers recorded during the year.



Small Copper, photo by Mike Richardson

Red Admiral (*Vanessa Atalanta*)

2008: If anything, the sightings of Red Admiral in the North East of England during 2008 have been worse than 2007. Of the available flight time of 293 days, the insect was only seen on 144 days, (49%), this is thirty-four fewer than the previous year. The total number recorded in the region was down by 5% to 2219, a drop of 117. The dreadful weather during the late summer has undoubtedly had an adverse effect on numbers. Only five days of sunshine were recorded in Alnwick for the whole of August.



The earliest sighting for 2008 was in the garden of Tim and Dorothy Nelson at Stockton. This was recorded on 28th January, one day later than in 2007. Four individuals were recorded by Michael Laverick at Shibdon Pond on 31st March, and two more by Geoff Dobbins at Ford Moss on 4th April. After that, singletons were recorded sporadically over the next three months, until Mike Nattrass spotted three at Preston Cemetery on 3rd July. Various sightings of ones and twos continued to be recorded throughout July and into August, until 10th August, when the Alnwick Wildlife Group counted ten at

Smeafield Farm, near Belford.

Kevin Redgrave recorded 45 at Stable Cottage, Brunton on 13th August. From then on, records in single figures were reported, rising to a maximum of seven from Birtley, Alnwick and Holywell Dene, until Keith Smith recorded 14 at Riding Mill on 20th August.

Paul Tankard had 25 individuals at Hauxley Nature Reserve on 21st August, and Keith Smith had another 17 at Colbalt Park on 23rd August. Hauxley Reserve did very well, with another 30 recorded by the Hauxley Ringing Station on 24th August.

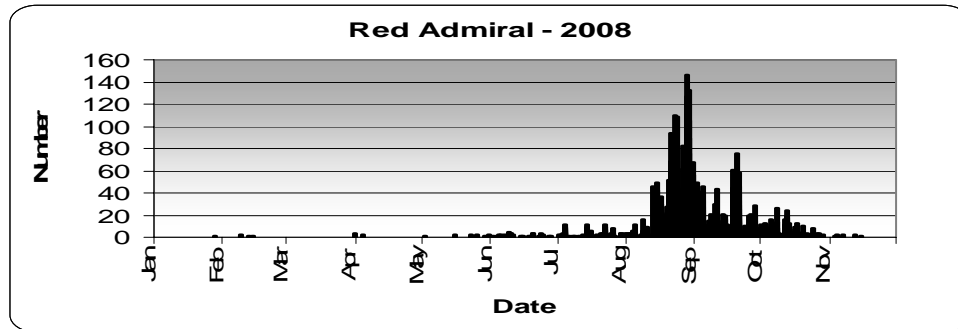
28th and 29th August must have been nice days. Eight were seen at Ord House, ten at Corbridge, eleven at Newton Point, fifteen at Howick, sixteen at Annstead Dunes and nineteen at Colbalt Park on 28th August. On the following day, there were ten at Castle Park, Morpeth, thirteen on the Farne Islands (Inner Group), sixteen in Upper Teeside and twenty-eight at Brunton.

Twenty-five Red Admirals were recorded at Titlington Mount by the Alnwick Wildlife Group, on 3rd September, but single figure recordings were the norm throughout August and September. The exceptions being Riding Mill with 25 on 11th September and 26 at Sable Cottage, Brunton on 20th September.

The last record for the year was from there by Kevin Redgrave with a single butterfly on 15th November.

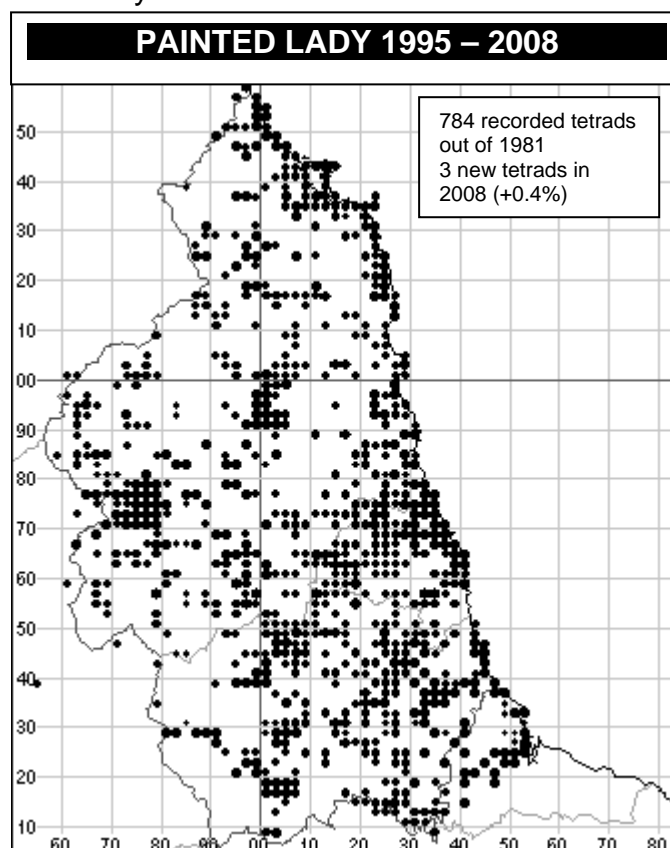
Eleven new tetrads have been added to the recording map of the region, making a total of one thousand and seventy-four for North East England. The spread of new records for 2008 is interesting in that the majority of sightings are well to the east of the region, and clustered in north east County Durham, and along the north coast of Northumberland.

The number of records received by the Branch Recorders has dropped from 1143 to 900 records submitted for 2008, a reduction of 243. Of those nine hundred recordings, five hundred and twenty-one records were for single sightings, over half the total, one hundred and fifty-nine were for two individuals and only thirty records were for sightings in double figures.



Painted Lady (*Vanessa cardui*)

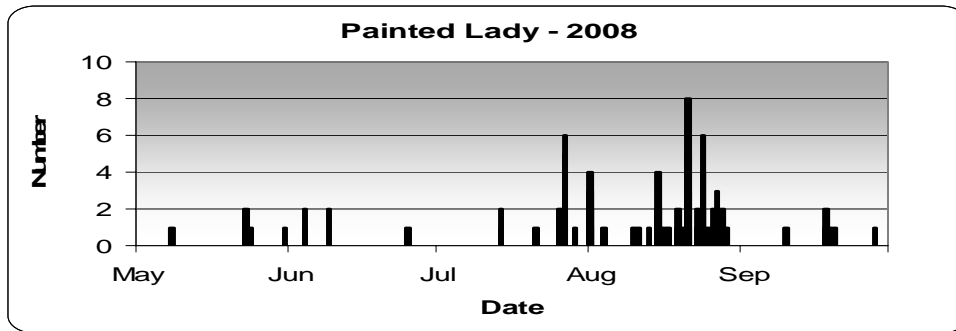
2008: A total of sixty-one records were received, which recorded only seventy individual butterflies. This is a drop of over 90% on the 2007 figures. The flight period covered 144 days and the Painted Lady was seen on only 35 (24%) of these days.



Ian Davidson saw the first one in the region at Dunstan Square on 8th May. This was two weeks earlier than the second records; one seen on the Farne Islands by the resident wardens and one seen by Brian Pollinger at Stargate Ponds, both on the 23rd May.

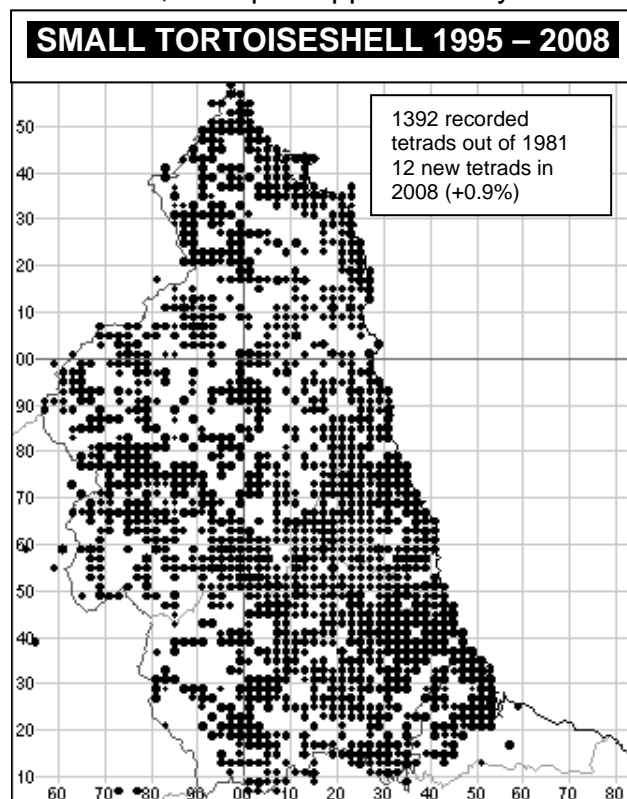
In such a bad year the majority of records were of single butterflies only. The maximum counts received were of three seen by Keith Smith at Hagg Bank in the Tyne valley on 21st August and Graham Mitchell who also saw three at Hardwick Hall on 27th August. The final record for Northumberland was from

the Alnwick Wildlife Group who spotted one at Swarland on 20th September. The last record for Durham and for the region was one seen by Tom Iviston at Newton Hall junction near Durham city on 28th September. There have been a number of poor years for this butterfly recently but 2008 was by far the worst. Was this just a reflection of our poor summer in 2008? It would be interesting to know if the Painted Lady had a bad year over Europe as a whole. Another possibility is that there are problems in its breeding areas of North Africa, the source of the European Painted Lady each year, which means migration to Europe is affected in spring. Let's hope the poor numbers were due to our bad summer weather and not a more long term problem.



Small Tortoiseshell (*Aglais urticae*)

2008: Small Tortoiseshell had a rather poorer year compared with 2007. There were only eight hundred and sixty-nine records submitted of 1886 individuals, a drop of approximately 20%.



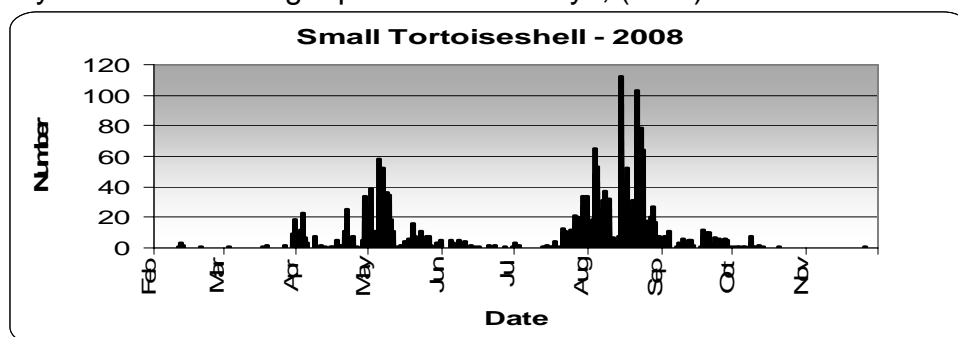
The season started with a remarkable total of seven records in February, all of individuals. The first was by Steve le Fleming on the 11th of February at Romaldkirk. The following day, three records came from Alnwick Wildlife Group, Michael Holmes and Gordon Pollinger at Alnwick, Clara Vale and Slaley respectively. The other February records were by Ian Davidson at Big Waters and Les Rowell at Trimdon Grange, both on the 13th and by Graham Mitchell on 20th at Hardwick Hall.

The first generation peaked on 5th May when 58 individuals were noted with the highest individual counts for the spring generation being 25 by Tim & Dorothy Nelson at Greenvale LNR in Stockton, also on 5th May. The only other double figure counts were both of 11 by Ian Scott at Bishop Middleham the same day and by Tim & Dorothy on 2nd May also at Greenvale

LNR. Very few records were received for late June and early July before the second generation emerged around the 21st July. Numbers then increased rapidly to a peak in mid-August when 112 and 103 individuals were noted on the 15th and 21st respectively. The highest counts were both on 15th by Hauxely Ringing Station near Amble of 32 and by Keith Smith of 25 at Hagg Bank, near Wylam. The best Durham counts were of 14 and 10 by Dave Little and Michael Laverick at Burn Hill and Birtley Sewage Works respectively.

The last Durham records were singles from Gordon Simpson at West Auckland on 10th October and Gordon Pollinger at Ryton Cemetery on 12th. Northumberland's late records were also singles and came from the Farne Islands' wardens on 20th October and from the Alnwick Wildlife Group at Powburn on 25th November.

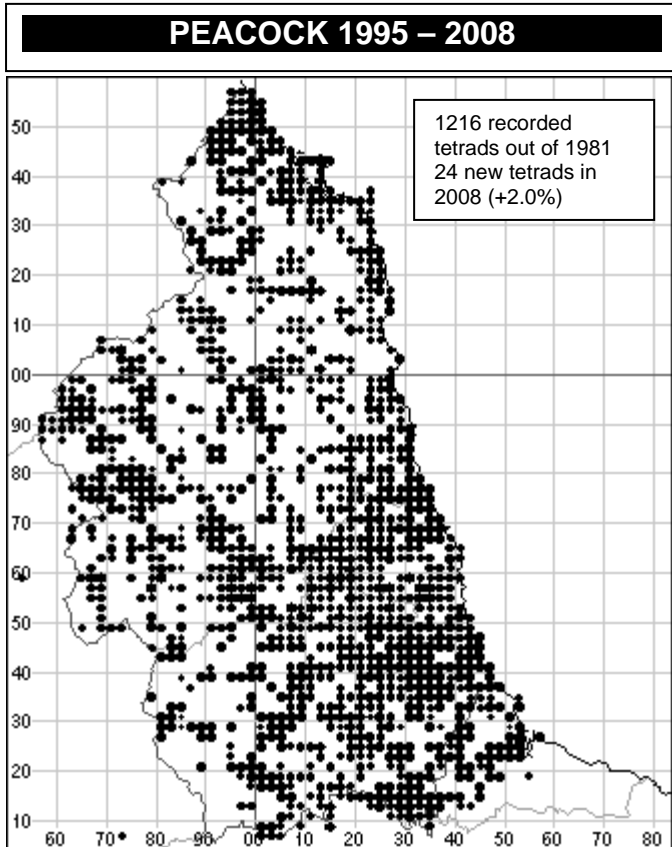
Dave Wainwright and Hew Ellis both recorded larvae. Small Tortoiseshell was found in 233 tetrads, of which 12 were new. It was on the wing for 157 days out of a total flight period of 289 days, (57%).



Peacock, photo by Mike Coates

Peacock (*Inachis io*)

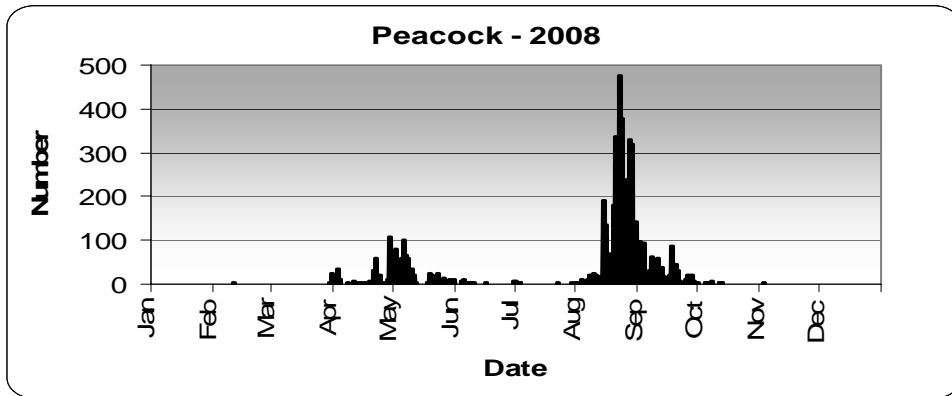
2008: Once again, this was the third most abundant butterfly recorded in our region, and numbers were higher than in 2007, with 5221 individuals recorded, although it was recorded from fewer tetrads, two hundred and seventy-eight in total, although twenty-four of those were new tetrads. Again, a single January record started the season, with Alan Davis' single on 22nd January at Gosforth Park. Bob Mawson then got Durham's first, another single at Trimdon Grange Quarry on 6th February. There were a few more records in February and the beginning of March, but the main emergence began around the end of March, with a number of records throughout the region on 31st March, including a count of nine.



Spring brood numbers peaked around the first half of May, and then started to drop again, before the summer generation started to emerge around August. The highest count of the year came from John Hope with 63 at Thrislington Plantation NNR on 28th August, with Norman Walker a close second with his count of 61 at Fulforth Dene on the previous day. June and July also brought a number of records of larvae, from Bob Mawson, Hew Ellis, Mike Hunter, Gordon Simpson, Mike Jeffries, Helen Carlton, and Mr. P. Harvey.

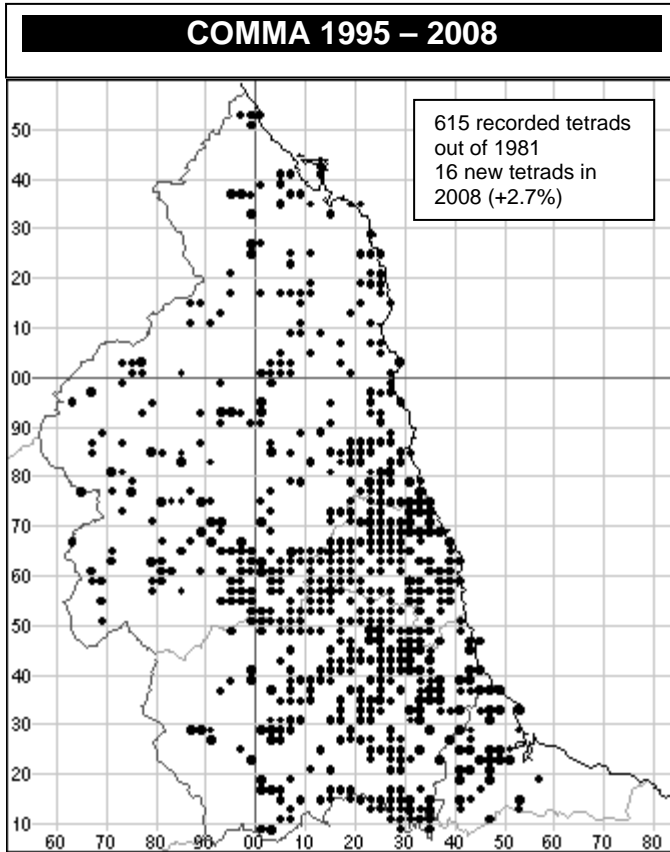
Numbers dropped throughout September, but there were a number of sightings in October, five in November, and a single sighting on 6th December, from Ian Davison, at Washingwell Wood in Gateshead, which brought the season to a close. Northumberland's final record came from the Alnwick Wildlife Group, with a single at Marshall Meadows, Berwick on 26th November.

Peacock was seen on the wing for 154 days out of 320 (48%).



Comma (*Polygona c-album*)

2008: During 2008, the Comma was recorded on one hundred and twenty-three days out of a total of approximately two hundred and ninety possible days to be flying. A total of nine hundred and twenty-seven individuals were seen and five hundred and forty-four records were submitted. This is far less than the previous year when six hundred and eighty-four records reported one thousand one hundred and fifty-four individuals. This is a drop of 20% in both recorded sightings and individuals.



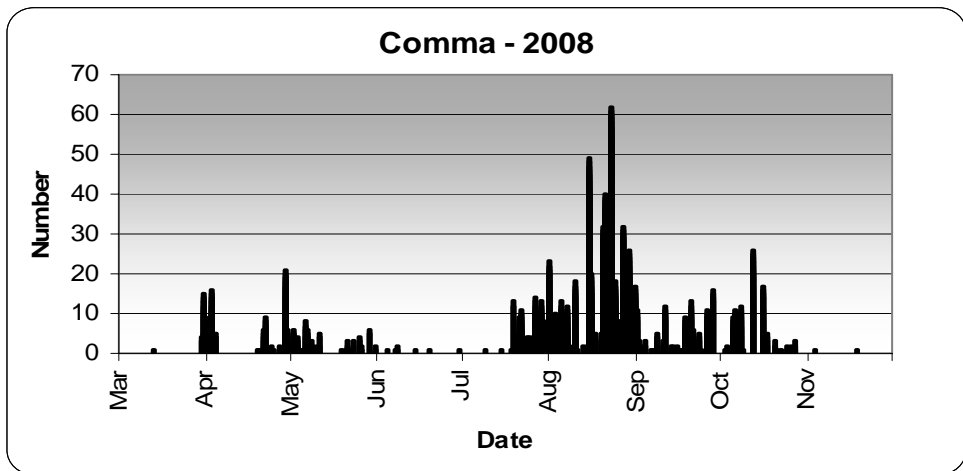
The butterfly, however, continues to spread northwards, with sixteen new squares being added to the regional map, thirteen of which are in Northumberland, one in Tyne and Wear, the other two are in Cleveland. Most of the new Northumberland sites are in the coastal region, and in the far north of the county round the Kyloe Hills area. There were three hundred and seventy-three individual sightings noted between 13 March and 18 November, and only four records of double figure sightings for the whole year. These were from Keith Smith who had twelve on 19th July at Farnley

Scar and twenty-one at Riding Mill on 20th August, David Nicol who saw ten at Whittle Wood near Corbridge on 23th August and Mike Hunter who recorded ten in Darlington on 28th September.

Keith Smith recorded both the first Comma in the car park at The Rising Sun in Wallsend on 13th March, and he also saw the last on 18th November at Backworth Hall.

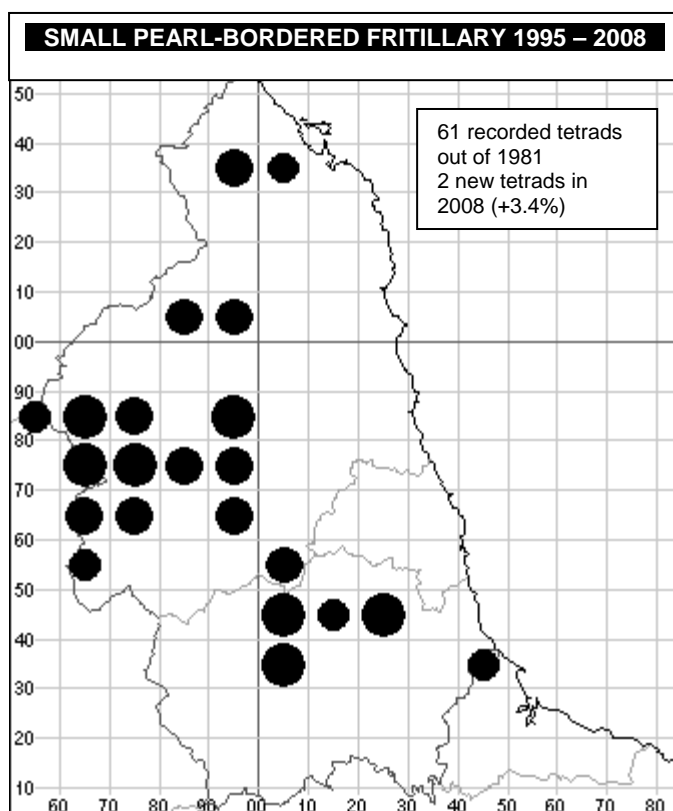
The best day to have seen the insect in 2008 was 23rd August, when twenty-seven records were received, noting sixty-two individuals. This was followed by 15th August, when twenty-one records showed forty-nine individuals and by 21st August, when twenty-four records registered forty butterflies.

The species championship for 2008 goes to Keith Smith, who submitted sixty-eight records for the Comma, totalling one hundred and sixty-seven butterflies.



Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary (*Boloria selene*)

2008: The records for Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary were marginally down on the results for 2007, and were presumably affected by the poor weather during the flight season. Thirty-six reports were received for this species, as compared to thirty-eight in 2007 and forty-two in 2006. This year's reports related to 224 individuals from eleven tetrads.



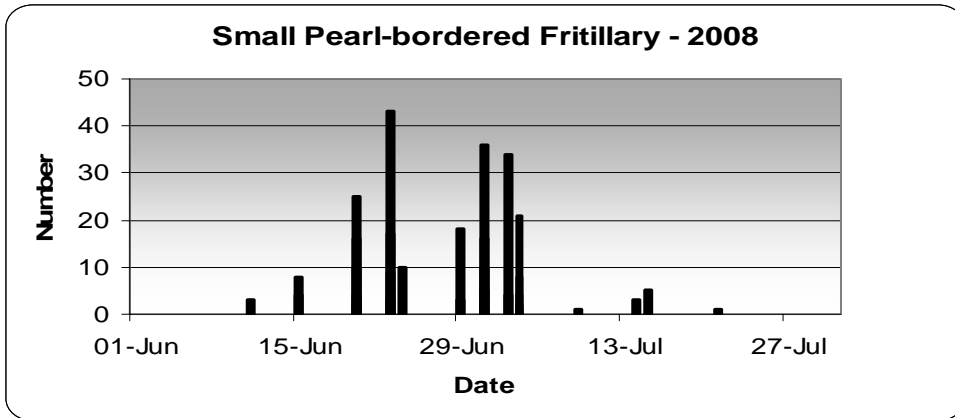
The season started with a record of three by Dave Liddle at an A68 site on 11th June, followed by Keith Smith reporting four each at Rushy Dene and nearby Sweethope in Northumberland on the 15th. The peak Northumberland counts were by Roger Norman with a total of 36 in the Sweethope area on 1st July. The only other double figure count was by Alan Davis with 10 at Sweethope on the 24th June. There were six other records from the Wark forest in the west of the county, by Gordon Simpson, Geoff Dobbins and

by Keith Smith. The largest Durham counts were by Dave Liddle with 26 on 23rd June and then 30 on the 3rd July. Dave then found a further 13 at a nearby site the next day. The season ended in Durham with five recorded by Bob Mawson on the 15th July and in Northumberland with a single in the south of Wark Forest by Keith Smith on the 21st.

The conservation status of this UK BAP species in Co. Durham was summarised in the 2006 report and hard work by a number of people has continued to assist its prospects. The position in central Northumberland is that there appear to be considerable areas that could hold colonies and that there are many areas still to be explored. The poor weather in July in both 2007 and 2008, during its flight period, has probably hampered the discovery of more sites for this butterfly.

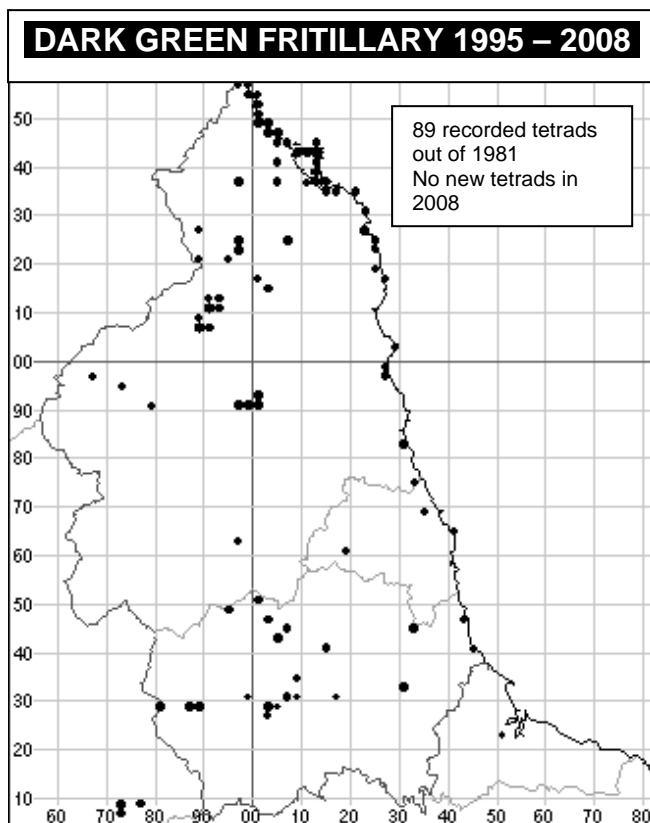
Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary was recorded on 13 days out of a flight period of 41 days (32%). The species was found in two new tetrads, one in Northumberland and one in Durham, both were adjacent to previously recorded tetrads. These are summarised below.

Tetrad	Recorder	Site	Date
In NY77	Keith Smith	Wark Forest	21-Jun-08
In NZ04	Bob Mawson	Castleside	23-Jun-08



Dark Green Fritillary (*Argynnis aglaja*)

2008: This was, if anything, an even poorer year for Dark Green Fritillary in Northumberland than 2007. There were a total of 60 records received of 494 individual butterflies (compared to 525 in 2007 and 1365 in 2006). No new tetrads were recorded for this species which was only reported from 16 tetrads altogether in 2008. Indeed, the spread of Dark Green Fritillary southwards along the coast that has been witnessed in recent years went into reverse in 2008. Dark Green Fritillary was on the wing from 2nd July until 29th August and was recorded on 28 of the possible 59 days within this period (47%).



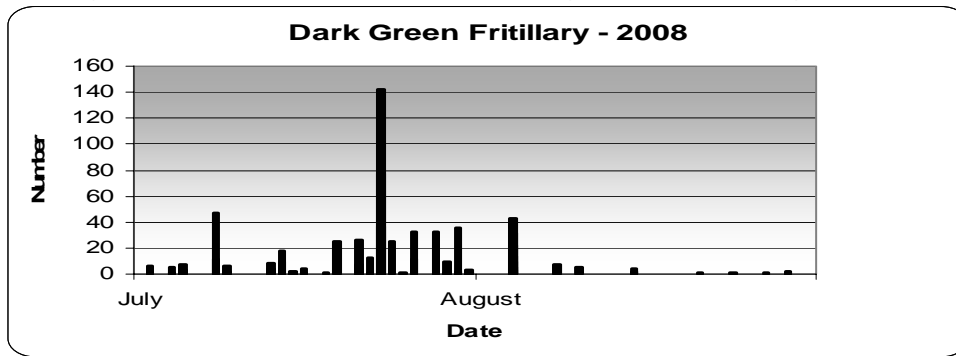
The first records of the year, on 2nd July, were of a singleton by Malcolm Hutcheson at Cheswick and 5 individuals at Newton Links by Kevin Redgrave. These were followed by records on the 4th July near Waskerley by Dave Liddle and by Phil Davey at Lindisfarne (one and 4 individuals respectively). The first double figure record was of 12 individuals on Lindisfarne on 8th July and numbers reached a peak on 23rd July when 142 individuals were recorded on Lindisfarne. These were recorded by Keith Smith in three sections of the dunes (40, 37 and 65 individuals respectively in the

squares NZ1043, NZ1143 and NZ1243). The next highest counts recorded, both on Lindisfarne, were 35 by Alnwick Wildlife Group on 8th July and 34 by Phil Davey on 30th July.

Away from Lindisfarne, double figure counts were achieved at Newton Links by Kevin Redgrave on 22nd July (12 individuals) and at Ross Dunes by Ian

Davidson on 4th Aug (also 12 individuals). A remarkable count by Dave Liddle in the Waskerley area of 31 is the biggest count outside Lindisfarne for the region. Other records worthy of mention are four records near High Force in Upper Teesdale by Ian Findlay on 25th and 31st July and 15th and 29th of August lending support to speculation in the 2005 summary that the species may be breeding in that area.

Numbers fell away fairly sharply after the beginning of August and only odd singletons were recorded in the second half of the month. The last record for the year in both counties was on 29th August with Hew Ellis recording one at Druridge Pools and Ian Findlay recording one in near High Force.



Grayling,
photo by Alan Davis

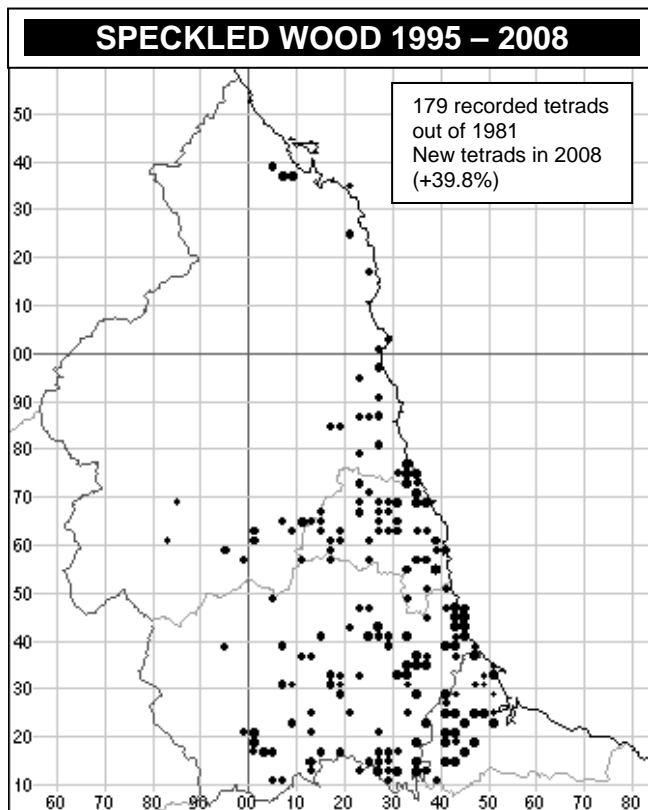
Speckled Wood (Pararge aegeria)

2008: A total of five hundred and forty records were received and these recorded 1864 individual butterflies, this was up from 1223 butterflies in 2007. Record numbers of Speckled Wood were seen in 2008 as the butterfly becomes better established and widespread in the region, this was despite the bad weather of the summer of 2008.

It is worth briefly reflecting on the recent spectacular increase. In our 2003 review it was described as “a rare species to see anywhere in our region”, and only two records were received for the year. In 2005 the numbers reported shot up to 144 and it was described as “the year of the Speckled Wood”. This year’s total of nearly two thousand sightings would have been unimaginable just a couple of years ago.

The honour of the first sighting in 2008 belonged to Northumberland where Keith Smith saw one at the Spetchells near Prudhoe on the 16th April. Durham’s first record came from Tim and Dorothy Nelson with two spotted at Brankin Moor near Darlington on 29th April.

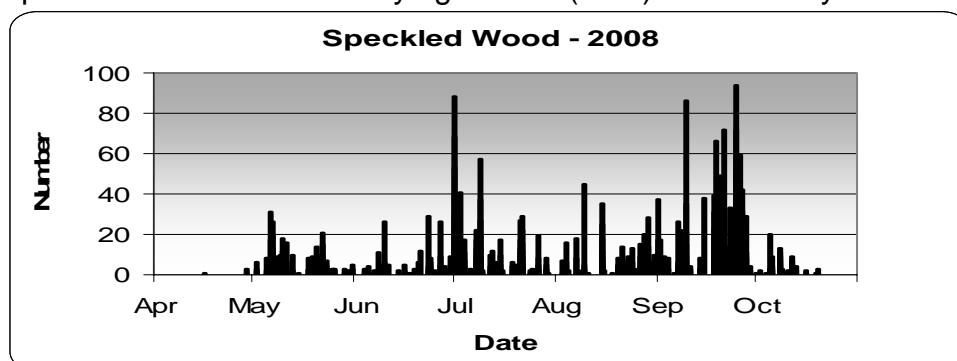
As this butterfly can over winter as a caterpillar or pupa there are usually several peaks in the spring numbers as the adults emerge. In 2008 several clear peaks were evident in May, June and early July. The first brood records were mostly in single numbers but 20 seen by Brian Denham in West Cemetery Darlington on 10th June and 25 seen by Barbara Walton at Whinnies LNR on 25th June stood out.



The highest counts reported came with the emergence of the second generation in September with twenty-two double figure counts during the month. The highest for the region as a whole was from Tim and Dorothy Nelson with 51 seen in Preston Park, Stockton on 10th September. Barbara Walton had consistently high counts through the summer from the Whinnies LNR. Northumberland's highest was from Mike Nattrass with 26 seen in Preston Cemetery, North Shields on 3rd July. Oddly enough the final records for the season for both Northumberland and Durham

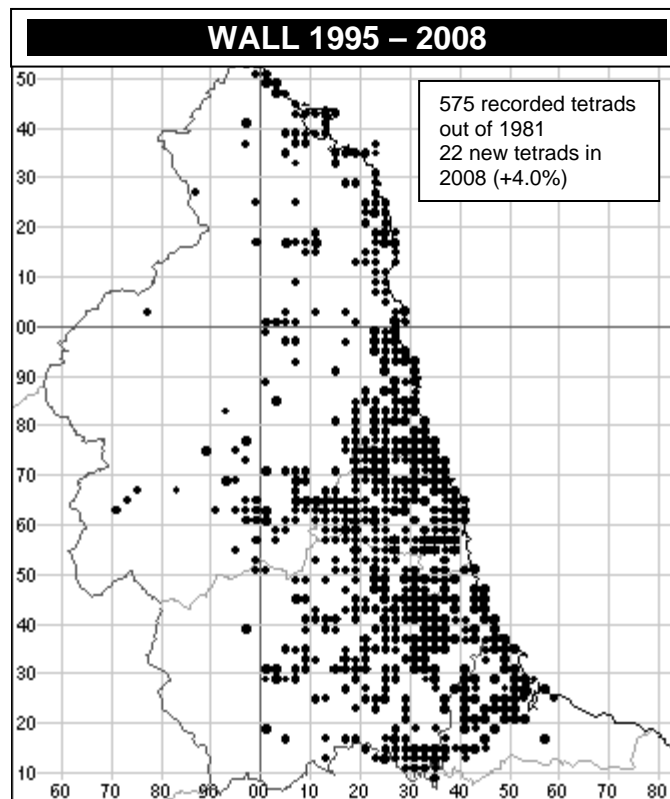
came from the same people who saw the first records for the season! Tim and Dorothy Nelson saw one in Preston Park Stockton on 16th October, and Keith Smith brought the season to an end with two at the Spetchells and one at nearby Hagg Bank on the 20th October.

Some other interesting sightings came from the most northerly site for the Speckled Wood in the region at Detchant Woods north of Alnwick. The butterfly is now well established there and spreading, with more than seventy individuals recorded from Detchant and neighbouring woods. For example the Alnwick Wildlife Group saw twenty at Smeafield Farm near to Detchant on 1st September. Finally another sighting showing the ability of this butterfly to wander; there was one recorded on the Farne Islands by the seasonal wardens on 28th September. The flight period lasted 188 days and the Speckled Wood was seen flying on 124 (66%) of these days.



Wall (*Lasiommata megera*)

2008: A total of seven hundred and seventeen records were received, down from 810 in 2007. These recorded 2380 individual butterflies, down from 2930 the previous year. The flight period lasted 156 days and the Wall was seen flying on 103 (66%) of these days, about average for recent years.



The numbers recorded for the spring brood were low in comparison to recent years; also the peak of the spring brood was in early June compared to the normal of late May. This was no doubt due to the long cold spring of 2008 affecting overwintering pupae. However, the numbers seen in the late summer brood were up on recent years, so the wet summer did not seem to affect the development of the second generation. Northumberland provided most of the early records. There was a joint first sighting with D. Blair seeing two at Holywell Dene, and

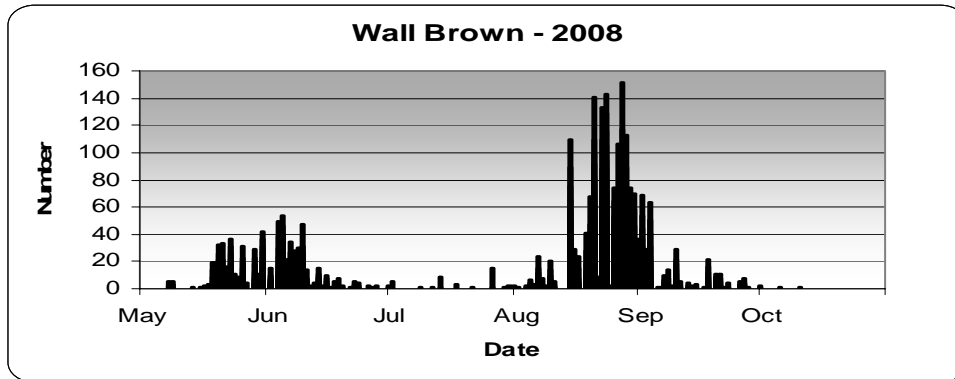
Roger Norman spotting three at Paradise SNCI in the west end of Newcastle, both on the 8th May. There were many records from all over Northumberland before Durham's first from Mike Hunter who saw one at Goosepasture Pond near Durham Tees Valley airport on 18th May.

Numbers then rose steadily with good spring brood counts of 12 from Barry and Jean Robinson at Ford Quarry Sunderland on 21st May, ten seen by Roger Norman at Hebburn on 4th June and 16 recorded by Michael Hampson at Bishop Middleham Quarry on 10th June.

The spring counts then started to drop away in the last week of June followed by a lull in July and early August as the second generation developed. The second week of August marked the emergence of the second generation with numbers picking up rapidly through the rest of the month. Keith Smith saw 18 at Riding Mill in the Tyne Valley on 20th August and 21 at Farnley Scar near Corbridge the same day. He followed this up with 34 at Earsdon Junction in North Tyneside on 28th August. Anne Corrigan saw 11 at Penshaw Monument on 24th August. Hewitt Ellis had a combined total of 41 from two sites in Druridge Dunes on 29th August. Bob Mawson recorded 15 at Trimdon Pit Heap on 2nd September.

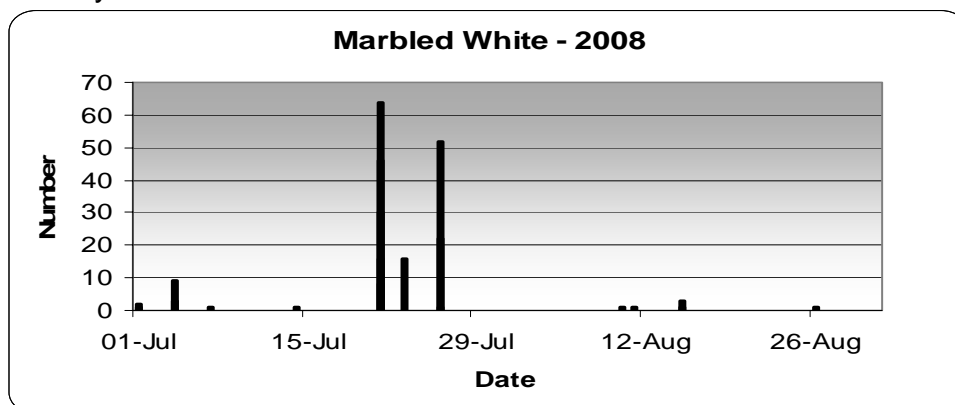
Northumberland's highest count came from Dave Stebbings who saw 46 at Havannah LNR just north of Newcastle on 27th August, while Durham's highest was from Tim and Dorothy Nelson who counted 32 at Bowesfield Marsh, Preston on Tees on 21st August.

Numbers declined markedly after mid-September. Durham's last records were from Bob Mawson who saw one on the Raisby Way, Sid Storey who also spotted one there and Dave Wainwright with one at Inkerman near Tow Law all on 27th September. The final record for Northumberland was from Michael Holmes who saw one at Fell Cottages, Slaley on 11th October.



Marbled White (*Melanargia galathea*)

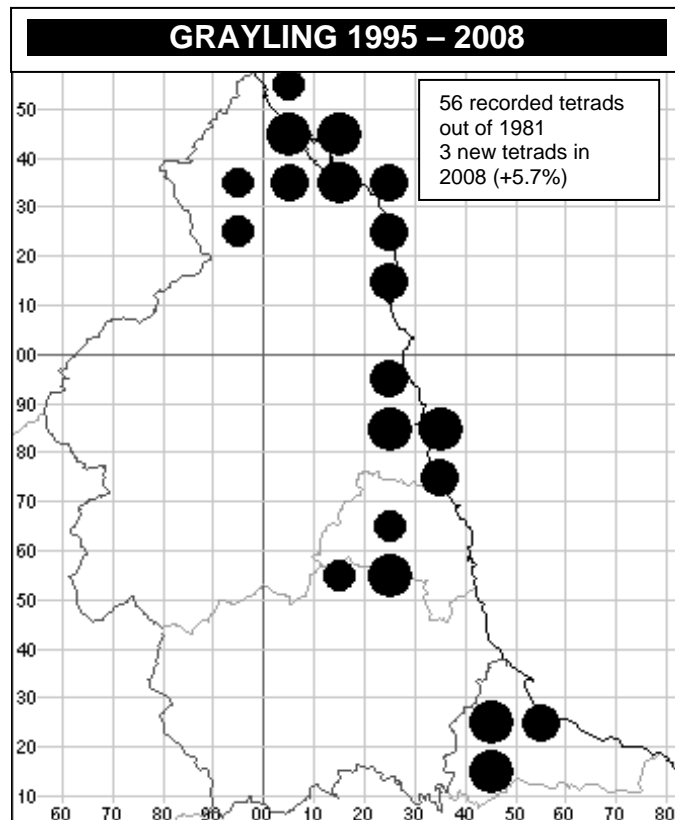
2008: From its planned release at Wingate Quarry in 200 the Marbled White has survived there but rarely strayed far. This year, however, there were four new tetrads: one was seen by Pippa Smaling at West Park Nature Reserve on the NW outskirts of Darlington on 1st July. Gary Whitton reported another the same day at Wingate Quarry, and 9 were seen there on 4th July. On 7th July, Lee Miller saw one at Percy Pit LNR on the Tyne at Newburn and on 14th Pat McHugh recorded another at Ellington in Northumberland - not obviously a Wingate stray. Mike Hunter saw one at Black Wood, SE of Darlington on 26th July. Most of the 164 individuals reported by 10 recorders on 11 days between 1st July and 26th Aug. were at Wingate Quarry; the last there were two seen by Frank Barber on 15th Aug., but his single specimen nearby at NZ3335 on 26th Aug. was the last in the region. The highest daily count was 64 on 21st July.



Grayling (*Hipparchia semele*)

2008: If 2007 was a poor year for the Grayling, 2008 was even worse. The annual total of butterflies recorded in our region decreased from 141 to 116. Initial analysis would suggest a relatively modest fall, but when set in the context of the total of 612 recorded in 2006, the scale of the recent decline experienced by this species becomes more apparent. Poor weather during the flight period has, until now, been the primary cause of this decrease,

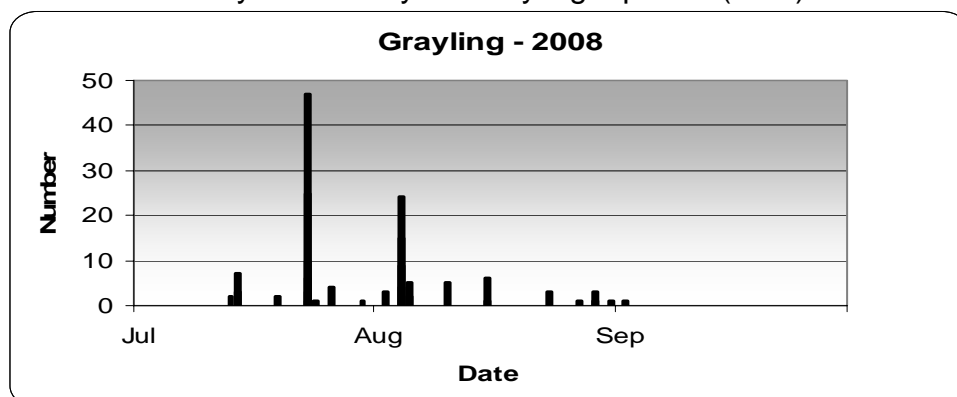
although scheduled redevelopment of brownfield sites in the region will impact further upon the species in the future.



Keith Robson got the regional first with a sighting of two insects at the Birtley Brickworks site on July 13th, four days later than last year's first record. Paul Tankard and Alan Davis recorded Northumbrian firsts a day later, with three and four respectively at Cambois. Counts remained in low single figures until July 23rd, when Hewitt Ellis and Roger Norman saw 15 and 22 respectively, again from the Cambois area, albeit from very different habitats. Hew found his butterflies amidst the dunes, whereas Roger's were found on the private former coal

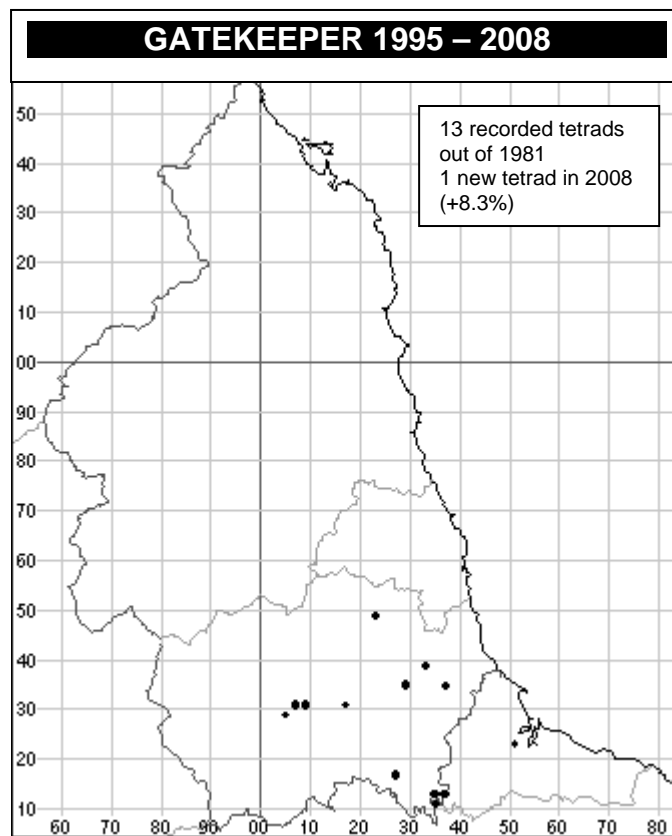
yards of the old Blyth Power Station. These were the only double-figure counts recorded in 2008, so it was unsurprising that the highest daily total in 2008 was recorded on the above date. Hew and Roger both made further sightings in the North Blyth/Cambois areas and Keith Smith recorded another four from Holy Island, providing a grand total of 47. Compare this with 2006, when single-site counts of more than double this figure were made! In a normal year, Keith Smith's count of nine from Holy Island on August 4th would not warrant much attention; in the context of 2008 it proved a major success!

The season fizzled out thereafter; Keith Robson recorded Durham's last on August 31st at Birtley sewage works and Phil Davey posted Northumberland's last from Lindisfarne NNR on September 2nd. Worryingly, Tim and Dorothy Nelsons' brace at Greatham Creek were the only Graylings seen on Teesside in 2008, although this may have been because no-one ventured out to look for them between the seemingly-unbroken downpours. Graylings were recorded on seventeen days of the fifty-two day flight period (33%).



Gatekeeper (*Pyronia tithonus*)

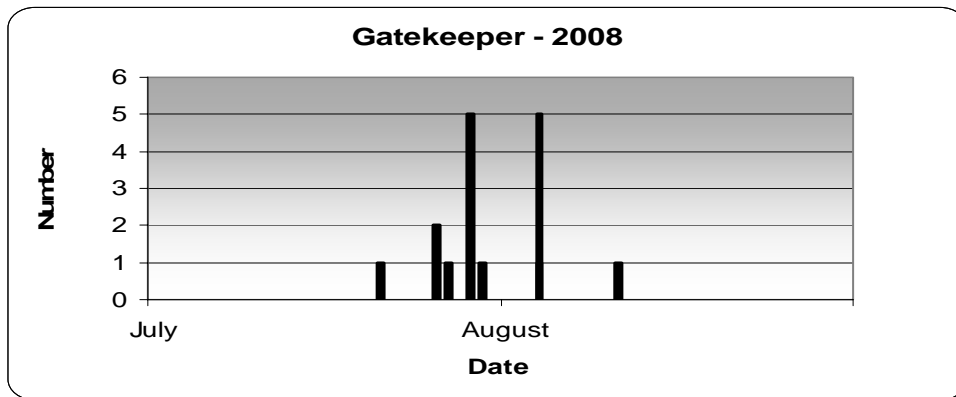
2008: This year has been a remarkable year for Gatekeeper and may herald the start of a major spread of this species into the south of County Durham, perhaps in the manner of that achieved over the last few years by Speckled Wood. Since the start of the Butterflies of the New Millennium project in 1995, there have been fifteen records of Gatekeeper in the North-east, giving an average of between one and two records per year.



The suggestion was made in last year's report that, with the slow expansion of the species northwards in Yorkshire, the Whinnies would be well placed to receive wanderers from the south. It was also suggested that there might be a small breeding population in Hamsterley Forest, given the occurrence of a handful of records over the years from that area. Considering the generally poor weather in 2008, it was a major surprise that there were a total of eight records for the region. Both the Whinnies and Hamsterley Forest turned up Gatekeeper, but the biggest surprise was the occurrence of four records from West Park Nature Reserve in Darlington.

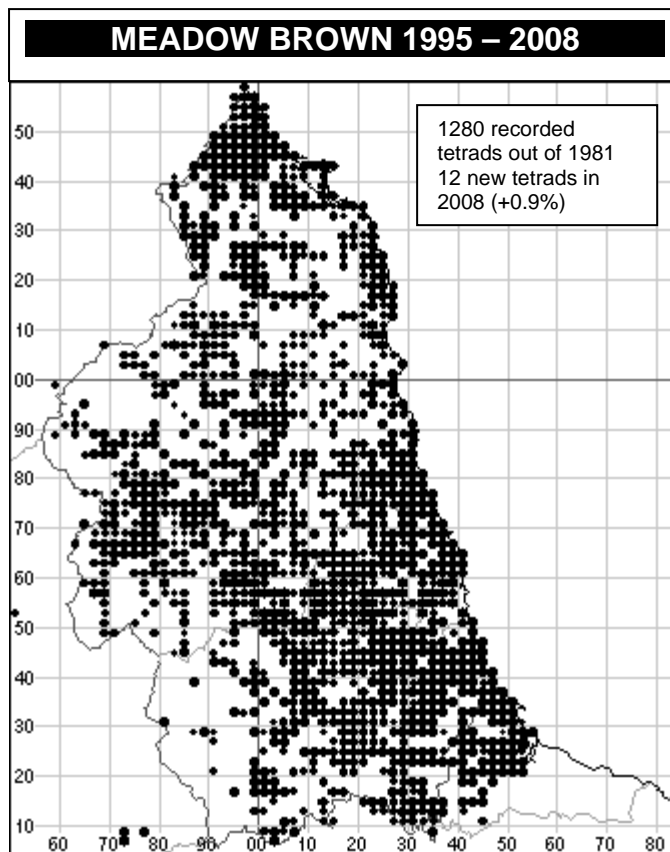
The first record was a single from West Park on 21st July by Pippa Smaling on her transect followed by two in Hamsterley found by Malcolm Gallimore on the 26th and then one by him on the 30th. Pippa then found five on the 29th followed by four on the 4th August. Cliff Evans recorded one at the Whinnies on the 27th July and Barbara Walton then found one there on 4th August. The last record of the season was a single on the West Park transect on 11th August. An unprecedented total of sixteen individuals were reported on seven days over the flight period of 22 days. Peak daily totals of five individuals were reported twice over the season. Gatekeeper was found in one new tetrad, (NZ3412).

If the weather in 2009 is reasonable or perhaps better than the last two years, then it is not unreasonable to hope that Gatekeeper's spread will continue in the south of County Durham and beyond.



Meadow Brown (*Maniola jurtina*)

2008: Meadow Brown is by far our most numerous butterfly and despite the poor weather which affected many other species, 2008 appears to have been an excellent year. Meadow Brown recorders excelled themselves this year with total sightings of 26,135 individuals, an increase of 45% over last year's 18,067.

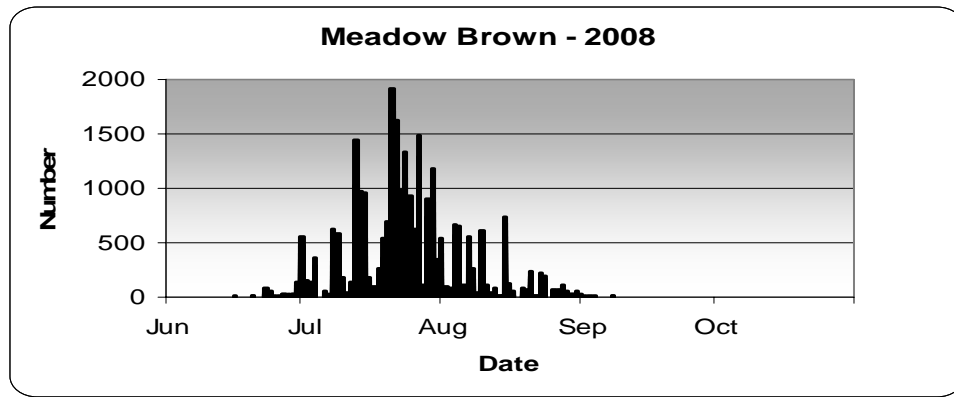


A total of 1,288 records were submitted, the first two on 4th June from Charles Cuthbert at Newton Point and Dave Chrisp near Wickham, west of Gateshead. Numbers built significantly only in July with 555 on 1st, and 11 daily counts of over 900, peaking at 1,918 on the 21st reported by 49 observers. There were sixteen observers who recorded 200 or more individuals, with the largest counts being 433, made by Heather Dunn at Heather's Fields near Wickham on 22nd July. Mike Jeffries recorded the last Northumberland records, which were both singles, at the Ouseburn Farm in

Newcastle on 20th and 27th September. In Durham, Tom Iveston found a single on the Newton Hall Junction transect on the following day and the last record to come in was also of a single in Washington Wildfowl Park on 1st Oct. from Bill Walsh.

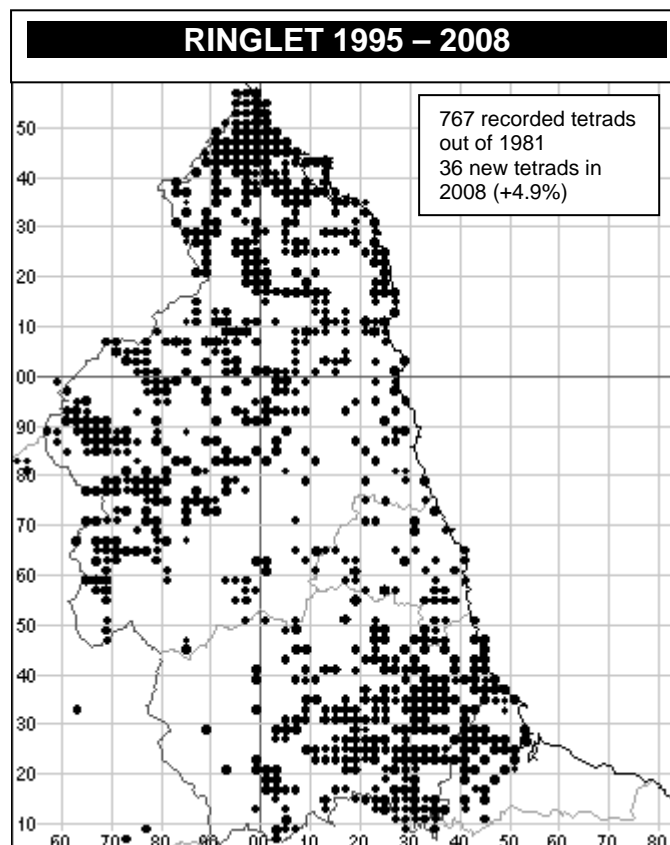
The flight period was 120 days and the butterfly was on the wing for 91 days, (76%). The year brought sightings of Meadow Brown in 12 new tetrads.

This species has shown remarkable resilience in the bleak weather conditions of 2008, as have its recorders.



Ringlet (*Aphantopus hyperantus*)

2008: A total of 602 records were received and a total of 8870 individual Ringlets were recorded. These totals compare with 533 records and 6552 individuals for 2007 so records and numbers were substantially up, as was the case with Meadow Brown. There was one individual record of over 300 and thirteen individual records in excess of 100 individuals.



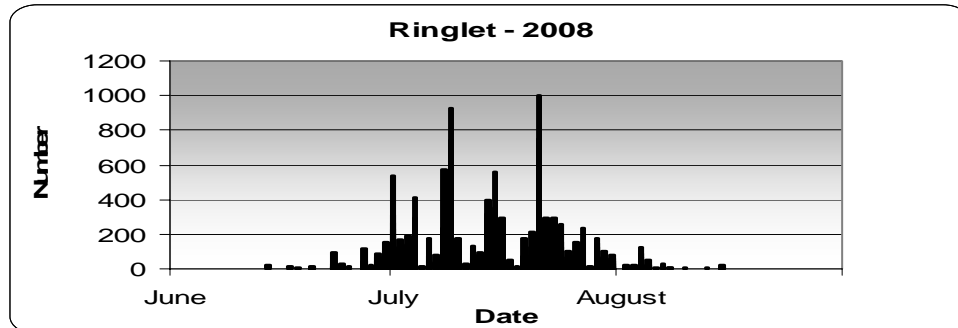
The first record of the year came from Frank Barber at Raisby Way on 14th June, with Bob Mawson recording a single there two days later. The first Northumberland records came from Hew Ellis and Graeme Bowman who found one and two respectively at Druridge Pools and the nearby Ladyburn Lake on 20th. From the first recording there were regular low numbers of sightings until the 2nd week in July when numbers started to increase significantly with 4 peaks of 535, 914, 385 and 388 over the 2nd and 3rd weeks in July.

Maximum numbers in Durham were 339, recorded by Barbara Walton at the Whinnies transect on 8th July. The peak count in Northumberland was by Alnwick Wildlife Group with a count of 230 in the Howick area (NT83L) on the 21st of July.

From the beginning of August to the last recording on the 30th of August, daily totals never exceeded 100, with individual sightings being mostly in single figures. Last recorded sightings in Northumberland were on 13th August by

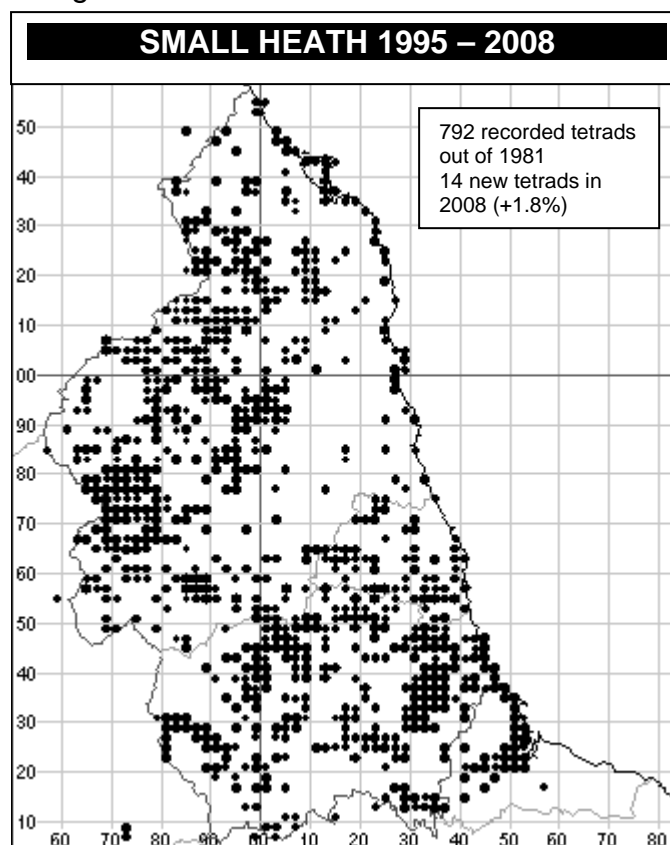
Molly Hardie and Kevin Redgrave who found nine and one respectively at Cocklawburn Dunes and Brunton, near Embleton. In Durham, Pippa Smaling found one at her West Park transect in Darlington on 21st and Dave Liddle two at his Burn Hill transect on 30th.

Ringlets were recorded in 164 tetrads, 36 of which were new tetrads. Ringlets were on the wing for 78 days and recorded on 60 days (77%).



Small Heath (*Coenonympha pamphilus*)

2008: A total of 530 records were received with a total of 4300 individuals being recorded. This was an increase of 28% over 2007.



Small Heath were recorded in 109 tetrads, 14 of which were new tetrads.

There was one individual record of 80 in one day, by the Alnwick Wildlife Group at Ross on 15th August, but the average individual sighting was below 10. There was one daily peak of 305 (the total of all records for one day) on 21st July, and another of 263 in mid-August.

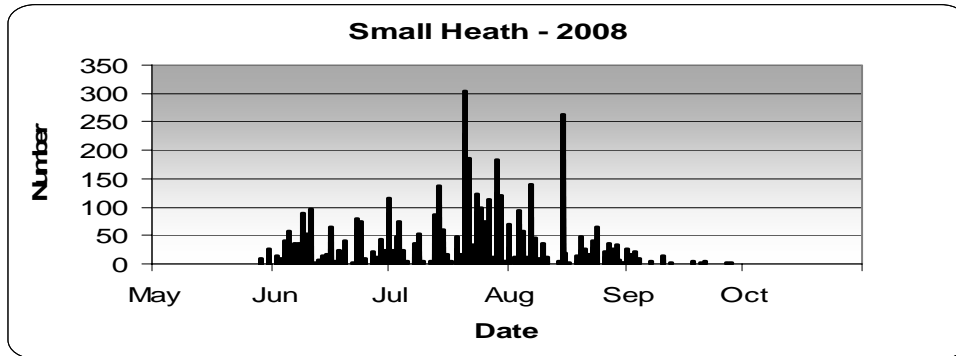
The first sighting was by Bob Mawson with 1 at the Lime Kilns at Raisby Quarry on the 21st of May, 7 days later than 2007. Tim and Dorothy

Nelson and John Lawson followed up Durham's first with records from Dorman's Pool and Stillington Forest Park respectively on 29th.

The first Northumberland record was from Keith Smith at Wallbottle Brickyard LNR on the 24th of May, 10 days later than 2007. This was followed by a record of three by Kevin Redgrave at Newton Links on 29th May.

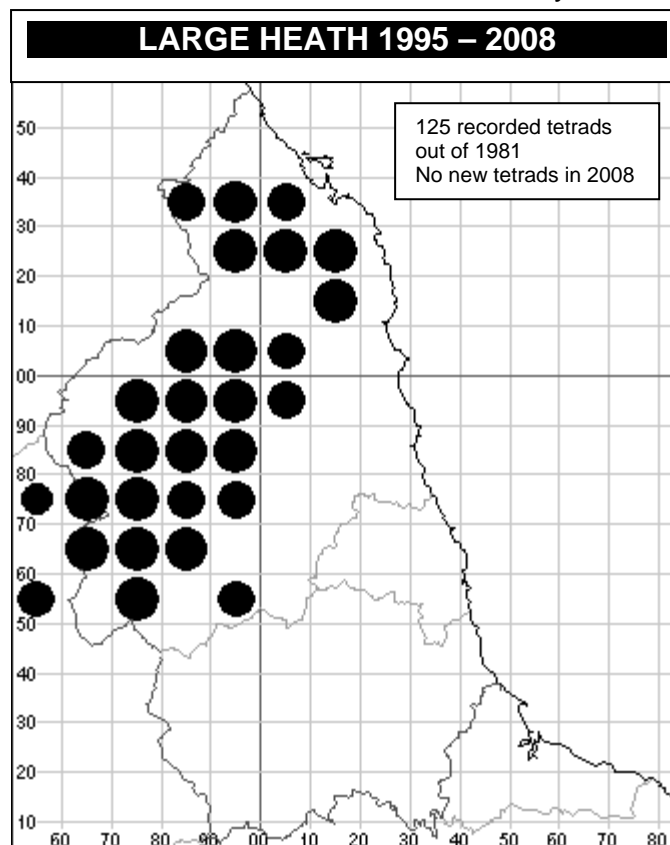
Sightings of any significant numbers ceased in the early of September with the final sighting for Durham of one by Bob Mawson on the Raisby Way on the 16th of October. The last Northumberland record was a single by Alan Davis at Havannah NR on 31st August.

Small Heath were on the wing for 149 days and recorded on 105 days (70%)



Large Heath (*Coenonympha tullia*)

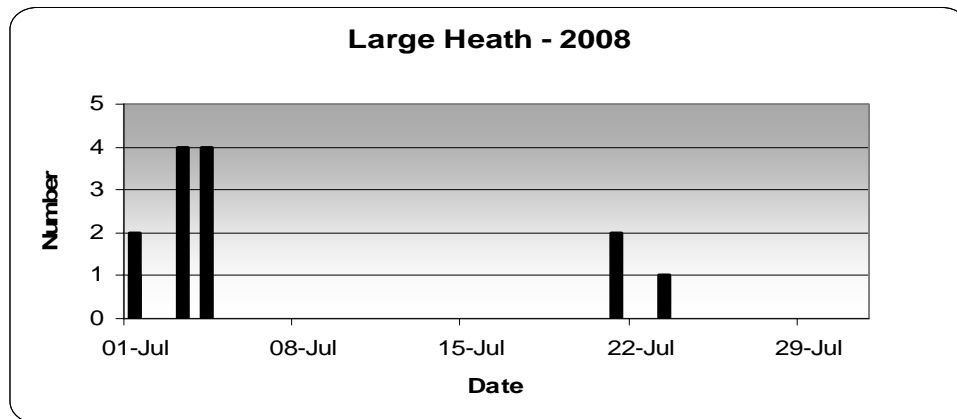
2008: With its liking for remote and boggy upland areas in Northumberland, Large Heath continues to be a very difficult species to observe and obtain any idea of its fortunes. In the last two years, the number of records submitted has been six and one respectively. This year saw a slight improvement on 2007 with six records being received. The first ones were singles by Roger Norman at a site near Sweehope Lough and at Steng Moss, both on 1st July. Alan Davis and Keith Smith then recorded four each at Steng Moss and Bellcrag Flow on the 3rd and 4th July respectively. The last records for the year were two by Keith at Bellcrag Flow on the 21st July and a single by Ian Davidson at Holburn Moss in the north of the county on 23rd July.



This is a UK BAP species and, apart from four 10Km squares on the North York Moors, and one 10km square on the Humberhead mosses, is at the southern edge of its range east of the Pennines in Northumberland. It could be lost to us if climate continues to warm.

The recorders would like to receive more records for Large Heath to be able to continue to monitor this species and keep track of its fortunes. In last year's report it was suggested that a small number of suitable sites needed to be visited each year during days of good weather. To do this in the future, one or more

enthusiasts are needed and if anyone is interested in visiting the moors in July, the recorders would be very pleased to hear from them.



Acknowledgements We would like to thank our species writers for assisting in the preparation of the annual report: Jaci Beaven, (Holly Blue, Red Admiral & Comma), Brian Denham, (Ringlet & Small Heath), Cliff Evans, (Small White & Small Tortoiseshell), Steve Kirtley,(Brimstone), Steve le Fleming, (Common Blue, Marbled White & Meadow Brown), Dave Stebbings, (Large Skipper, Painted Lady, Speckled Wood & Wall Brown), Dave Wainwright, (Dingy Skipper, Northern Brown Argus & Grayling).and Jonathan Wallace, (Orange Tip & Dark-green Fritillary) We are looking for more volunteers, to write up one or perhaps two species for 2008. We would also like to receive more photographs for inclusion in the report, (as JPEG files please). Please contact the Recorder.



Speckled Wood, photo by Bob Mawson

CONTRIBUTORS

J. M. Almond, Martyn Anderson, B. Anderson, Daphne Aplin, Fiona Aungier, Elizabeth Bamford, Frank Barber, Jaci Beaven, Russell Bell, Silvia Bennington, John Blackburn, Dave Blair, Ian Bond, Arthur Bowes, Graeme Bowman, Helen Carlton, Veronica Carnell, Vicky Catley, Dave Chrisp, Pam Chrisp, Ken Churchman, Mike N Coates, Melvyn Conlong, Leslie Cook, Anne Corrigan, C. P. Cuthbert, Phil Davey, Ian Davidson, Paul Davidson, Alan Davis, Ken Dawson, Brian Denham, V. Denham, Coralie Dickinson, Mark Dinning, Geoff Dobbins, Paul Drummond, Heather Dunn, Michael Eccles, Amanda Edwards, Arthur Edwards, Hewitt Ellis, Cliff Evans, Ian H Findley, Elizabeth Martin Fisher, Ian Fisher, Karen Fisher, Steve le Fleming, Dave Fletcher, Sara Frisby, Stephen Fryer, M. Gallimore, Graham Mitchell, Martin Greenland, Michael Hampson, Sue Handoll, Molly Hardie, Jacqui Harle, Brian Harle, Mike Harris, Peter Harvey, Matt Hawking, Richard Hockin, Simon Hodgson, Steve Holliday, Kelly Hollings, Michael Holmes, John Hope, Denise Hunter, Mike Hunter, Malcolm Hutcheson, Steven Hutchinson, Tom Hutchinson, Duncan Hutt, Tom Iviston, Mike Jeffries, Pam Johnson, Alan J. Johnston, P. Johnstone, Ian Kerr, Ian Kille, Simon Lamplough, Michael Laverick, Jim Lawrence, John Lawson, Dave Liddle, David Long, H.W. Loose, Roger Manning, Jim Martin, Jack Mawson, Joan Mawson, Robert Mawson, Pat McHugh, J. McKay, Dee McKeown, Chris McLaren, Andy McClay, Eileen Meek, Lee Miller, Graham Mitchell, Alan Mould, Francis Mudd, Mike Natrass, Liz Naughton, David Neal, Dorothy Nelson, Tim Nelson, David Nicol, Kaye Norman, Roger Norman, Andrew Paciorek, Yolanda Paciorek, Russell Pannell, Brian Pollinger, G. Pollinger, John Rae, Joanne Reavey, Kevin Redgrave, Mark Richardson, Mike Richardson, Paul Robins, Mr B.A. Robinson, Mrs J.A. Robinson, Julie Roper, Keith Robson, J. A. Roper, Les Rowell, K. A. Saville, Ian Scott, Gordon Simpson, Pippa Smaling, Keith Smith, Graham Smith, Mike Smith, Neville Stead, David Stebbings, David Steel, Les Stobbs, Sid Storey, Paul Tankard, Roslyn Tanner, Tom Thirlaway, Mike Thurner, M & N Tuck, David Turnbull, Enid Turnbull, A. Tynan, Dave Wainwright, Norman Walker, Peter Walker, Barbara Walton, Elizabeth Waterston, Bob Watson, Mr. Nicky Watson, Peter Webb, Bill Welsh, Gary Whitton, Ray & Caroline Wilby, M. Williams, John Wilson, John Winstanley, Robert Woods, Ann Young, Gordon Young, Phil Younger, Alnwick Wildlife Group, Berwick Wildlife Group, English Nature, Farne Islands Wardens, Hauxely Ringing Station, The National Trust, Northumberland Wildlife Trust, with apologies for any accidental omissions.

Both 'casual' records and transect counts play an important part within the data analysis used in this annual report. Butterfly Conservation would like to thank the following transect walkers:

Recorder	Transect
Kelly Hollings	Bakethin, Kielder
Mark Richardson, Steve Le Fleming.....	Bishop Middleham Quarry
Stephen Hutchinson.....	Brass Castle-Waldrige North
Dave Liddle.....	Burn Hill
Arthur Bowes	Castle Eden Dene NNR – West end
Berwick Wildlife Group*	Cocklawburn Dunes
Cowpen Bewley Woodland Park	Daphne Aplin
Dunstanburgh Heugh.....	Silvia Bennington
Vicky Catley, Chris McLaren.....	Derwent Walk Country Park
Helen Carlton	Gibside (National Trust)
Dave Stebbings	Havannah LNR
Dave Wainwright.....	Hedleyhope Fell & Inkerman
Phil Davey (Natural England)....	Lindisfarne NNR
Stephen Hutchinson, John Wilson, Melvyn Conlong...	Morrison Busty Pit Yard
Coralie Dickinson, Les Stobbs, Tom Iviston.....	Newton Hall Junction
C. P. Cuthbert, Kevin Redgrave	Newton Point
Kevin Redgrave (National Trust)	Newton-Links
Mark Richardson, Mark Dinning	Raisby Hill Grassland
Brian Pollinger, Francis Mudd...	Stargate Ponds & Bewes Hill

John Lawson.....	Stillington Forest Park
Karen Fisher	Tanfield Lea, near Stanley
Simon Hodgson	Tees Railway Walk
Brian Denham, Barbara Walton	The Whinnies LNR, (near Darlington)
John Hope	Thrislington Plantation
Berwick Wildlife Group**	Tommy-the-Miller's Field, Berwick
Ian H. Findley.....	Upper Teesdale NNR
Pippa Smaling.....	West Park, Darlington

* Elizabeth Bamford, Elizabeth Martin Fisher, Fiona Aungier, Ian Kille, M. Williams, Molly Hardie.

**Enid Turnbull, Fiona Aungier, John Rae, Leslie Cook.

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Front Cover	Gatekeeper	Terry Coult
Page 6	Ringlet	Mike Richardson
Page 26	Small Copper	Mike Richardson
Page 30	Peacock	Mike Coates
Page 35	Grayling	Alan Davis
Page 45	Speckled Wood	Bob Mawson

With the increasing number of butterfly records now being submitted, and with it the increasing chances of finding locally rare species, a reminder that photographs or descriptions in support of the following five species should be sent with each record: Brown Argus, Large Tortoiseshell, Camberwell Beauty, Gatekeeper and Brimstone. In the absence of any photographs, a detailed description in support of the sighting should be submitted. In addition to these species, any record of Essex Skipper will need to be fully documented.

A brief description should also accompany any out of place records, such as a species seen outside its normal flight period, e.g. a Small Skipper seen in the first week of June or earlier, or a species seen well outside its currently known range, for example Northern Brown Argus in Northumberland.

Feedback

When processing and analysing almost fourteen thousand records, plus comparisons to previous years, it is almost inevitable some mistakes will slip through. If anyone does notice any errors please inform your Butterfly Recorders. The Branch would welcome any feedback or suggestions to improve future editions of the Annual Report. Please send us photographs, line drawings and articles for both the newsletters and annual reports. They are always welcome.

FLIGHT PERIOD TABLE

This table relates to both Durham and Northumberland, and records the first and last flying record of each species for the three-year period 2006 to 2008. Insects found in undisturbed hibernation or in the larval stage have been excluded. For ease of reference, any record early/late sightings during the BNM project period 1995 – 2008 are included in the last two columns. Only two earliest and seven latest record dates were beaten or equalled. One or two dates may differ from previous tables due to additional records or reappraisal.

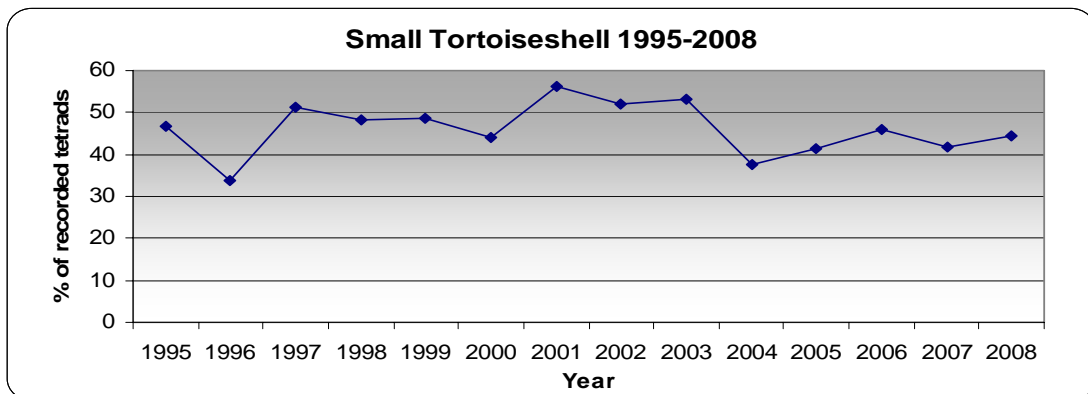
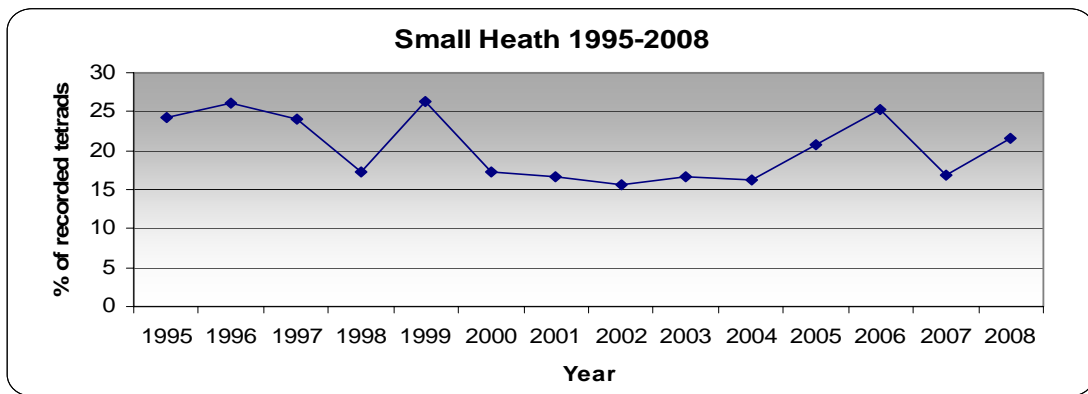
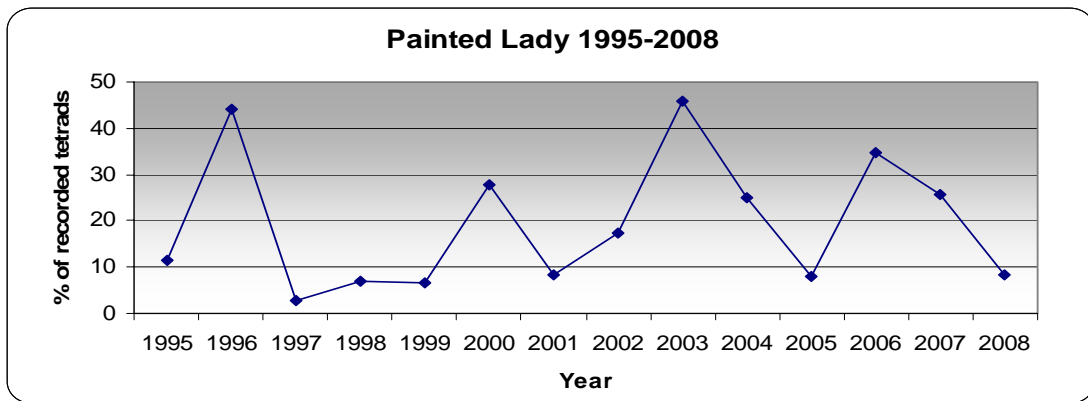
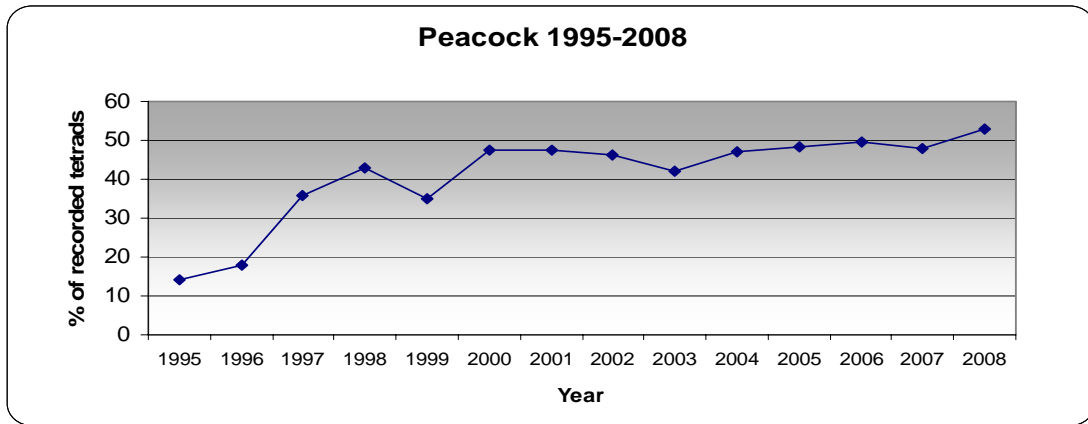
FLIGHT PERIOD TABLE								
	2006		2007		2008		Record earliest	Record latest
Small Skipper	7-Jun	20-Aug	20-Jun	6-Sep	7-Jun	21-Sep	7-Jun-06/08	10-Oct-01
Large Skipper	1-Jun	6-Aug	19-May	17-Aug	31-May	15-Aug	19-May-07	27-Aug-02
Dingy Skipper	9-May	3-Jul	30-Apr	2-Jul	9-May	27-Jun	18-Apr-03	18-Aug-01
Clouded Yellow	23-May	13-Oct	2-Jul	18-Sep			23-May-06	15-Oct-00
Brimstone	3-May	6-Aug	5-Apr	30-Aug	10-May	1-Jul	5-Apr-07	5-Sep-97
Large White	15-Apr	29-Oct	4-Apr	31-Oct	1-Apr	13-Oct	17-Mar-99	31-Oct-07
Small White	15-Apr	27-Oct	25-Mar	21-Oct	3-Apr	8-Oct	3-Mar-99	30-Oct-05
Green-veined White	16-Apr	29-Sep	5-Apr	11-Oct	27-Apr	9-Oct	9-Mar-97	18-Oct-97
Orange Tip	14-Apr	10-Sep	5-Apr	21-Aug	31-Mar	24-Jun	30-Mar-03	10-Sep-06
Green Hairstreak	23-Apr	19-Jun	18-Apr	1-Jun	6-May	27-May	11-Apr-97/03	27-Jul-98/08
White-letter Hairstreak	27-Jun	7-Aug	22-Jun	13-Aug	19-Jul	28-Aug	16-Jun-05	28-Aug-96/08
Purple Hairstreak	7-Jul	6-Sep	7-Jul	3-Sep	21-Jul	23-Aug	6-Jul-03	12-Sep-05
Small Copper	9-May	24-Oct	26-Apr	28-Oct	20-Apr	12-Oct	13-Apr-03	28-Oct-07
Brown Argus	17-Aug	21-Sep	17-Jun	11-Sep	29-May	27-Sep	29-May-08	27-Sep-08
Northern Brown Argus	2-Jun	7-Aug	1-Jun	29-Aug	5-Jun	15-Aug	29-May-02/03	29-Aug-07
Common Blue	2-May	3-Oct	28-Apr	11-Oct	7-May	26-Oct	28-Apr-07	26-Oct-08
Holly Blue	27-Apr	21-Oct	7-Apr	11-Sep	13-Apr	20-Sep	1-Apr-99	21-Oct-06
Red Admiral	23-Jan	3-Dec	27-Jan	28-Dec	28-Jan	15-Nov	23-Jan-06	28-Dec-07
Painted Lady	8-May	2-Nov	4-Apr	4-Nov	8-May	19-Sep	4-Apr-07	7-Nov-03
Small Tortoiseshell	26-Mar	1-Dec	28-Jan	8-Nov	11-Feb	25-Nov	1-Jan-05	27-Dec-05
Camberwell Beauty	6-Jul	10-Sep					6-Jul-06	10-Sep-06
Peacock	18-Feb	18-Dec	19-Jan	30-Nov	22-Jan	6-Dec	8-Jan-96	23-Dec-05
Comma	22-Mar	31-Oct	3-Feb	16-Nov	13-Mar	18-Nov	3-Feb-07	18-Nov-08
Small Pearl-bordered Frit.	11-Jun	29-Jul	4-Jun	21-Aug	11-Jun	21-Jul	1-Jun-03	21-Aug-07
High Brown Fritillary	30-Jul	30-Jul					30-Jul-06	30-Jul-06
Dark Green Fritillary	7-Jun	20-Aug	28-Jun	7-Sep	2-Jul	29-Aug	7-Jun-06	7-Sep-07
Speckled Wood	5-May	23-Oct	5-Apr	11-Nov	16-Apr	20-Oct	5-Apr-07	11-Nov-07
Wall	5-May	30-Sep	4-Apr	21-Oct	8-May	11-Oct	4-Apr-07	21-Oct-07
Marbled White	30-Jun	6-Aug	2-Jul	31-Jul	1-Jul	26-Aug	25-Jun-03	26-Aug-08
Grayling	30-Jun	25-Aug	9-Jul	6-Sep	13-Jul	2-Sep	30-Jun-06	11-Sep-05
Gatekeeper	14-Jul	27-Jul	5-Aug	5-Aug	21-Jul	11-Aug	14-Jul-06	11-Aug-08
Meadow Brown	13-Jun	27-Sep	20-May	2-Oct	4-Jun	1-Oct	4-Apr-99	14-Oct-95
Ringlet	4-Jun	10-Aug	8-Jun	24-Aug	14-Jun	30-Aug	15-May-00	2-Oct-01
Small Heath	31-May	22-Sep	14-May	11-Oct	21-May	16-Oct	7-May-03	16-Oct-08
Large Heath	28-Jun	18-Jul	7-Jul	7-Jul	1-Jul	23-Jul	4-Jun-96	14-Aug-96

SPECIES ABUNDANCE COMPARISON TABLE
TETRAD ANALYSIS:
BUTTERFLIES OF THE NEW MILLENNIUM PROJECT (PHASES 1, 2 & 3)

2006 Tetrads (% of all 703 recorded tetrads))	2007 Tetrads (% of all 639 recorded tetrads)	2008 Tetrads (% of all 524 recorded tetrads)	Species	Phase 1 (1995 – 1999) (% of all 1,579 recorded tetrads)	Phase 2 (2000 – 2004) (% of all 1,460 recorded tetrads)	All three phases to date (1995 – 2008) (% of all 1,985 recorded tetrads)
295 (42%)	238 (37%)	207(40%)	Green-veined White	1,086 (69%)	946 (65%)	1527 (77%)
323 (46%)	266 (42%)	238 (45%)	Small Tortoiseshell	932 (59%)	835 (57%)	1393 (70%)
311 (44%)	287 (45%)	242 (46%)	Meadow Brown	871 (55%)	726 (50%)	1280 (64%)
347 (49%)	305 (48%)	282 (54%)	Peacock	671 (42%)	781 (53%)	1218 (61%)
238 (34%)	203 (32%)	224 (43%)	Large White	760 (48%)	731 (50%)	1174 (59%)
268 (38%)	198 (31%)	191 (36%)	Small White	709 (45%)	649 (44%)	1102 (56%)
395 (56%)	255 (40%)	196 (37%)	Red Admiral	536 (34%)	669 (46%)	1076 (54%)
205 (29%)	197 (31%)	171 (33%)	Orange-tip	459 (29%)	510 (35%)	915 (46%)
178 (25%)	108 (17%)	116 (22%)	Small Heath	525 (33%)	331 (23%)	792 (40%)
244 (35%)	165 (26%)	43 (8%)	Painted Lady	308 (20%)	557 (38%)	784 (39%)
183 (26%)	180 (28%)	167 (32%)	Ringlet	329 (20%)	383 (26%)	768 (39%)
177 (25%)	120 (19%)	118 (23%)	Common Blue	422 (27%)	395 (27%)	679 (34%)
184 (26%)	135 (21%)	104 (20%)	Small Copper	356 (22%)	346 (24%)	653 (33%)
180 (26%)	175 (27%)	131 (25%)	Comma	268 (17%)	381 (26%)	615 (31%)
170 (24%)	130 (20%)	136 (26%)	Small Skipper	302 (19%)	348 (24%)	605 (30%)
211 (30%)	164 (26%)	156 (30%)	Wall	225 (14%)	390 (27%)	575 (29%)
134 (19%)	121 (19%)	75 (14%)	Large Skipper	274 (17%)	238 (16%)	480 (24%)
74 (11%)	76 (12%)	99 (19%)	Speckled Wood	4 (0.3%)	17 (1%)	179 (9%)
58 (8%)	39 (6%)	32 (6%)	Dingy Skipper	87 (6%)	94 (6%)	174 (9%)
5 (0.7%)	1 (0.2%)	4 (0.8%)	Large Heath	116 (7%)	85 (6%)	125 (6%)
52 (7%)	57 (9%)	40 (8%)	Holly Blue	21 (1%)	47 (3%)	123 (6%)
27 (4%)	23 (4%)	8 (0.2%)	White-letter Hairstreak	47 (3%)	41 (3%)	102 (5%)
38 (5%)	19 (3%)	18 (3%)	Dark Green Fritillary	33 (2%)	41 (3%)	89 (4%)
26 (4%)	4 (0.6%)	-	Clouded Yellow	11 (0.7%)	50 (3%)	85 (4%)
13 (2%)	7 (1%)	6 (1%)	Green Hairstreak	46 (3%)	45 (3%)	82 (4%)
18 (3%)	9 (1%)	8 (2%)	Purple Hairstreak	4 (0.3%)	51 (3%)	66 (3%)
16 (2%)	14 (2%)	12 (2%)	Sm. Pearl-bord. Frit.	32 (2%)	29 (2%)	61 (3%)
21 (3%)	13 (2%)	12 (2%)	Grayling	24 (2%)	29 (2%)	56 (3%)
7 (7%)	4 (0.6%)	2 (0.4%)	Brimstone	6 (0.4%)	13 (0.9%)	34 (2%)
16 (2%)	3 (0.5%)	6 (1%)	Northern Brown Argus	21 (1%)	20 (1%)	26 (1%)
2 (0.3%)	1 (0.2%)	4 (0.8%)	Gatekeeper	7 (0.4%)	2 (0.1%)	13 (0.7%)
5 (0.7%)	-	-	Camberwell Beauty	10 (0.6%)	1 (0.1%)	11 (0.6%)
3 (0.4%)	1 (0.2%)	6 (1%)	Marbled White	-	3 (0.2%)	10 (0.5%)
2 (0.3%)	3 (0.5%)	2 (0.4%)	Brown Argus	-	-	6 (0.2%)
1 (0.1%)	-	-	High Brown Fritillary	-	-	1 (0.05%)
35	33	32	Tetrads	1,579	1,460	1,985
			Species			

Phase 3 data is for 2005, 2006, 2007 and 2008 only.

These graphs illustrate the fortunes of four of our commoner species over the life of the Butterflies for the New Millennium Project. Whilst Peacock has continued a slow, unobtrusive expansion, the graph for Painted Lady shows the erratic nature of its migration from the south. Small Heath is now a UK BAP species due to concern about declines. However, it seems to be holding its own in the north-east. Small Tortoiseshell is also under pressure in the south but appears to be stable here, despite the poor weather of the last two years.



SUBMITTING BUTTERFLY RECORDS IN 2009

Records are the bedrock of conservation and the North East Branch welcomes records of all species, for all dates and places, and of course for all forms.

As in previous years, there are two ways of sending your records in. For those without a home computer, the existing yellow paper casual record sheets will continue unchanged. However, if you have a PC, the Branch would strongly urge you to send in your records using a spreadsheet such as Microsoft Excel or Lotus 123. Each record should occupy one line and the format of the spreadsheet should look something like the following example:

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
1	Name/s of recorder/s	NZ274423	Palace Green, Durham City	22-Aug-2008	Large White	7	
2	Name/s of recorder/s	NZ196858	Morpeth (riverside)	24-Sep-2008	Peacock	2	Very worn
3	Name/s of recorder/s	NZ2514	Baydale Beck Darlington	1-Jul-2008	Comma	1	<i>Hutchinsoni</i> form

Column A - Recorder/s names.

Column B - Grid reference, which should be two letters, (NT, NU, NY or NZ), followed by four or six numbers. The first two (or three) numbers are the Easting, read from the top or bottom of OS maps, the last two, (or three) numbers represent the Northing, read from either side of the map.

Column C - Site name. For obscure place names please include a nearby town or village.

Column D - Date-please try to follow the format shown, **(this is really important)**

Column E - The name of the species seen.

Column F - **Please give the actual number seen if possible**, we no longer use letters for abundance, (A, B, C etc). For larva (L), ova (O), pupa (P) or mating (M) records, please use the appropriate code letter, optionally adding numbers seen.

Column G - For any comments you may wish to add.

Optionally, you can add a habitat code to an extra column, (column H), if you wish.

A blank spreadsheet, with the date formatted, is available, if needed, from the recorders. Electronic records are most easily sent as an email attachment. However, you can also send them in by post on floppy disc, memory stick or CD. The deadline for records to be included, and credited, in the 2008 Annual Report is 30 November 2008. Depending on where you live, please send records to:

DURHAM

Steve Le Fleming
 7 Albert Street,
 Durham, DH1 4RL
 0191 386 7309
 lsklef@aol.com

NORTHUMBERLAND

Roger Norman
 1 Prestwick Gardens, . Kenton,
 Newcastle-upon-Tyne, NE3 3DN
 0191 285 8314
 r.norman@clara.net

To avoid records being lost on the internet, we will try to acknowledge all emails within 14 days. If you do not hear from us please telephone us.

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